

with a [link to Rob's report](#), and urge them to take his advice so more families can afford the kind of child care that rightens everyone's future.

We can talk about our important work: Hannah Halbert helmed another edition of our summer roadshow in support of [A Winning Economic Agenda for Ohio's Working Families](#), our collaboration with Innovation Ohio Education Fund. Rob spoke about access to high-quality child care at an event for the Women's Fund of Central Ohio, and led breakout groups at a forum for the Health Policy Institute of Ohio. Daniel Ortiz took part in a community roundtable about public transit, and a press conference by Latinx leaders responding to ICE's massive workplace deportation raids on Ohio businesses. Mike Shields participated in a panel at Ohio Asian American / Pacific Islander Legislation Day, discussing immigrants' rights on the job. We're always grateful for our outreach too! Please talk up Policy Matters' work during your July 4th barbecues, family picnics, camping trips, rallies and marches!

and we can [form a union](#)!

[VIEW ONLINE](#)

POLICY MATTERS OHIO

Cleveland Office

31 Perkins Avenue - Suite 4C-East

Cleveland, OH 44114

Phone: (216) 361-9801

Fax: (216) 361-9817

Columbus Office

125 East Broad Street - Fourth Floor

Columbus, OH 43215

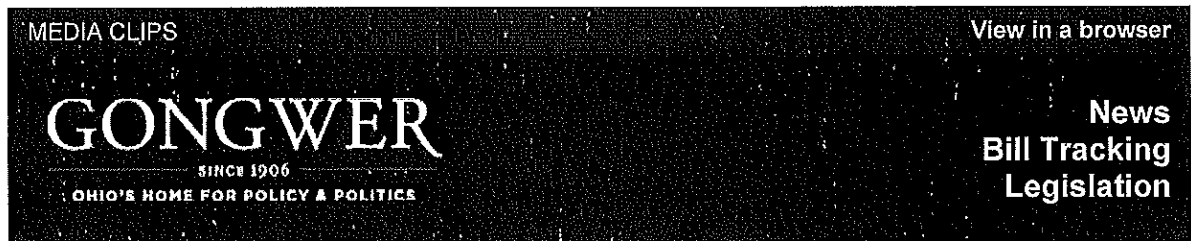
Phone: (614) 221-4505

Fax: (614) 221-4507

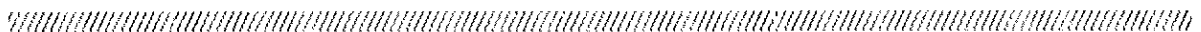
STAY CONNECTED:



From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Monday, July 2, 2018 8:38 AM
To: Sarko, Alyssa
Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Monday, July 2



NEWS



Auditor's report shows opioids impact on Medicaid (Associated Press, 7/2/2018)

Ohio Lawmakers Approve Lake Erie Algae Prevention Bill (Associated Press, 7/2/2018)

Biden in Cincy: Trump's ideology is 'aggrandizing power' (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/2/2018)

Complaint: Security should not stop black, female lawmaker (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/2/2018)

Ohio's Trump country is fond of this Democrat (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/2/2018)

First Ohio medical marijuana cultivator OK'd to grow cannabis, testing lab licenses awarded (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/2/2018)

Hey Washington, regular Ohioans agree on these federal budget fixes (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/2/2018)

Ohio's new compliant driver's licenses: What documents will you need? (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/2/2018)

Rep. Emilia Sykes files racism, sexism complaints with Ohio Civil Rights Commission over state building security allegations (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/2/2018)

Capitol Insider: Why is Ohio Medicaid defending pharmacy middlemen? (Columbus Dispatch, 7/2/2018)

Fireworks bill still up in the air as July Fourth holiday approaches (Columbus Dispatch, 7/2/2018)

Ohio teacher evaluations get an overhaul teachers like (Columbus Dispatch, 7/2/2018)

Ohio U and University of Toledo team up on health issues, including opioids (Columbus Dispatch, 7/2/2018)

Video catches Cordray dropping another Nazi reference (Columbus Dispatch, 7/2/2018)

Local child's death could spark statewide abuse registry (Dayton Daily News, 7/2/2018)

Ohio governor race: DeWine says he wants to make these changes to Ohio's early childhood programs (Dayton Daily News, 7/2/2018)

Some Ohio Democrats on ballot this year for Congress say Pelosi must go (Dayton Daily News, 7/2/2018)

2 Butler County Statehouse candidates among the state's top fundraisers since January (Journal-News, 7/2/2018)

Ohio lawmakers back bill requiring teachers to out transgender kids (Journal-News, 7/2/2018)

Copyright 2018, Gongwer News Service/Ohio

17 S. High St., Suite 630, Columbus OH 43215

All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without express permission from Gongwer News Service.

[unsubscribe](#)

From: Westlake, Libby

Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 9:56 AM

To: Best, Carolyn; Adams, Alexandra; Slack, Cora; Crock, Sarah; Lenzo, Mike; Kasych, Shawn; Lundregan, Scott; Myers, Marisa; Donelon, Terry; Baker, Dan; Young, Brad; Snider, Grace; Garczyk, Cameron; Sarko, Alyssa

Subject: Smith Clips for 7/5/2018

SMITH CLIPS



LAWMAKERS UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE FUTURE OF RIGHT TO WORK BILLS IN POST-JANUS OHIO

As the dust was still settling on the last voting session day for the Ohio House of Representatives and Senate, leaders of both chambers fielded questions about another major piece of news occurring while they were busy passing legislation; the Janus v. AFSCME decision made by the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS).



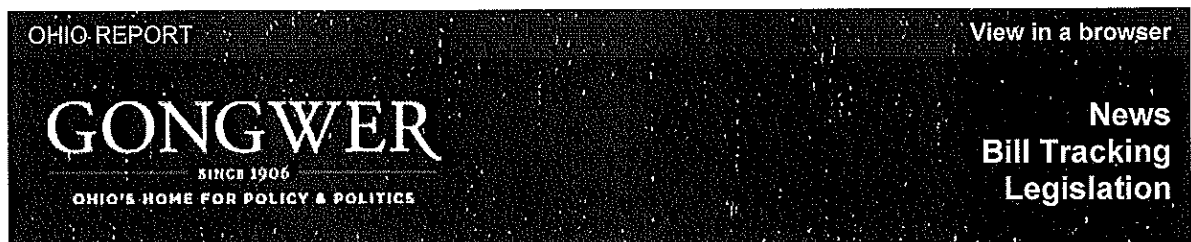
SMITH APPLAUDS BILL PASSAGE PROTECTING PASTORS, CLEAN LAKE PLAN

Speaker of the Ohio House Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) has applauded the passage of Senate Bill 299, or the "Clean Lake 2020 Plan," and House Bill 36, or the "Ohio Pastor Protection Act," by the Ohio House of Representatives.

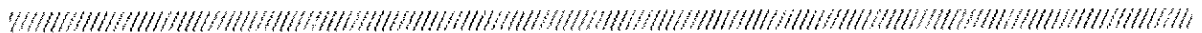
Libby Henson

Special Assistant to the Speaker for Correspondence
Office of Speaker Ryan Smith | Ohio House of Representatives
(614) 728-5448

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 5:56 PM
To: Sarko, Alyssa
Subject: Ohio Report, Thursday, July 5, 2018
Attachments: Jul5.htm; Jul5Senate.htm; 180705dayplan.htm



OHIO REPORT THURSDAY, JULY 5



Amendments Temper Superintendents' Victories In Education Overhaul Bill

Kidney Dialysis, Drug Penalties Amendment Campaigns Submit Petitions To Qualify For November Ballot

Siting Board Staff Issues Recommended Safety, Environmental Conditions For Proposed Off-Shore Turbines

Democrats Argue DeWine's ECOT Action 'Too Little, Too Late'

High Court Accepts Jurisdiction In Open Meetings Act Case

O'Connor's Latest Ad Features Kasich Voter; Becker Blasts U.S. Supreme Court; LPO Seeks Minor Party Status...

OEC Urges Steps To Tackle Algal Blooms; Portman, Brown Push Back On Dredging

Supplemental Agency Calendar

~~~~~

////////////////////

[unsubscribe](#)



**Volume #87, Report #129 -- Thursday, July 5, 2018**

**Amendments Temper Superintendents' Victories In Education Overhaul Bill**

Late additions to a measure set to make dozens of changes to the state's K-12 education system made its passage somewhat bittersweet for the school administrators who helped lead the push for the legislation.

The lower chamber last week passed the measure (SB 216) 60-32 after it gained more than a dozen amendments in committee hearings and on the House floor. The Senate concurred in the House's changes by a vote of 28-1. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 27, 2018)

While a group of e-school reforms tacked onto the bill rankled House Democrats into opposing the measure, a number of less-debated changes displeased the school administrators who initially helped to shape the bill.

Chris Pfister, superintendent of the Waynesfield-Goshen Local School District, said he counts a floor amendment by Rep. Jeff Rezabek (R-Clayton) among the negative last-minute changes to the bill. The amendment, which was accepted by a vote of 62-28, strips language that would have prevented excused absences from being included in the state's calculation for what makes a student "excessively absent."

Under existing law, a student is "excessively absent" when he or she misses 38 or more hours in a month or 65 or more hours in a year, whether the absences are excused or not. When a student reaches either of those thresholds, the district must send a notification to the student's parents.

Mr. Pfister, who formed a steering committee of superintendents on the legislation at the request of sponsor Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima), said the existing law does not allow school officials to use their discretion. He said local school districts should not be penalized for absences by students who are seriously ill or keeping up with their work while dealing with difficult or unusual family situations.

"All we (requested was), just don't count valid reasons against kids, parents and school districts," he said, adding that 50% of his district's students who are considered excessively absent are on the honor roll.

Rep. Rezabek, in describing the amendment last week on the House floor, said the existing provision of state law is simply about notifying parents about their students' absences and collecting related data from school districts.

"We're trying to catch students who, whether you're excused or unexcused, you're not there," he said. "You're missing the time to learn."

Rep. Rezabek said a number of school districts attempted to "aggravate parents and rally the public" against the provision of a measure (HB410), which he sponsored in the 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly. He said districts wrote unnecessarily "nasty letters" to parents of students who met the excessively absent threshold in the hopes of swaying the popular opinion of the law.

Rep. Rezabek said in an interview Thursday that if the change had gone through, "bad actors" among school districts simply could have excused any absence that would have led to additional intervention on the district's part. He said a small number of districts have been "purposefully creating (their) own controversy" about the letters to make the entirety of the law look bad.

"We just want to make sure the parents are notified," he said of the letters, adding that he "absolutely" would be open to improvements to the measure suggested by school districts.

Gov. John Kasich earlier this week appointed Rep. Rezabek as a juvenile court judge in Montgomery County. He is expected to resign effective July 11. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 2, 2018)

Among several amendments adopted in the House Education and Career Readiness Committee was one that stripped another suggestion by local school officials from SB 216.

The version of the legislation adopted by the Senate would have required students not receiving free or reduced price lunches to pay for half of their textbook costs for College Credit Plus courses they take at community colleges. By the time the measure passed the House last week, an amendment offered by Rep. Dan Ramos (D-Lorain) had removed that language from the bill.

Mr. Pfister said local school officials pushed for the change because students currently have no incentive to buy used or discounted textbooks, as local school districts are required to pick up costs related to the program.

"They can walk into the bookstore and buy a \$300 book and they don't care because it costs them absolutely nothing," he said.

Although he said many districts officials thought it was fair for students to have some skin in the game, Mr. Pfister said he also understood lawmakers' concerns that adding a cost for students to the program could prevent them from participating.

"We value College Credit Plus," he said. "I want as many of my students to get as many credits as they can."

A provision of the law allowing students to administer third-grade state achievement tests on paper instead of online counts as a win for local school administrators, Mr. Pfister said.

The superintendent said testing third-grade students on computers can be "developmentally inappropriate" and can lead to students being held back because they have not yet mastered computer skills.

"Do we want to test reading and writing or the manipulation of this technology?" he said.

Mr. Pfister said he would have liked to have seen the legislature go further in reducing restrictions that prevent districts from using teachers outside of their licensed grade bands. He said such restrictions can keep districts from putting "the best person in front of kids," but efforts to loosen them were watered down as the legislation moved forward.

Although he expressed disappointment with several changes to the bill during the legislative process, Mr. Pfister said he does view the measure as a good initial step on multiple fronts.

"Overall, everything that's in there is helpful," he said.

### **Kidney Dialysis, Drug Penalties Amendment Campaigns Submit Petitions To Qualify For November Ballot**

A pair of campaigns backing constitutional amendments submitted petitions this week to qualify for the November ballot, with one reporting more than twice as many signatures as required.

Supporters of the Neighborhood Safety, Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation amendment reported submitting 730,031, according to the secretary of state's office. They need 305,591 of those signatures to be certified as valid in order to make the ballot.

Proponents of the other ballot issue, the Kidney Dialysis Patient Protection Amendment, submitted 472,308 signatures, according to the secretary of state's office.

County boards of elections will determine how many of the signatures are valid by July 19, and the secretary of state's office has until July 24 to certify whether the proposals qualify for the ballot, according to the state.

Backers of the kidney dialysis issue, which is being supported by the SEIU, said the effort is designed to improve patient care at dialysis clinics. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 3, 2018)

"When talking with Ohio voters, they shared so many stories of loved ones with kidney failure being overlooked by the healthcare system," Dr. Ean Bett, a physician who supports the initiative, said in a statement. "The goal of this initiative is to protect those

patients - not the profits of dialysis corporations - and that's why voters were so enthusiastic about getting this on the November ballot."

The Ohio Renal Association, meanwhile, blasted the proposal as "deceptive and unnecessary."

"This ballot issue leaves me dumbfounded and incredulous," nephrologist Dr. Chris Saunders said in a statement, "The sponsors of this amendment demonstrated an obvious lack of understanding of the needs of dialysis patients and the comprehensive set of medical protocols and regulations that already govern the delivery of dialysis in Ohio."

An estimated 18,000 Ohioans suffering from end-stage renal disease receive dialysis treatments in clinics three times a week, with each visiting taking three to four hours, the Renal Association said in a release.

The association said nine out of ten patients receive coverage from Medicare, Medicaid or other government programs. They said the proposal would require dialysis providers to issue rebates to private insurers if their revenue exceeds certain limits, but it does not require those insurers to pass savings on to patients.

"This out-of-state special interest group is proposing a constitutional amendment to lock in place an unnecessary and flawed set of regulations that will actually harm the very patients the paid petitioners say they want to protect," nephrologist Dr. Henry Wehrum said.

The "Neighborhood Safety, Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation" amendment would make significant changes to how many drug crimes are handled in the state. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 2, 2018)

It would require all fourth- and fifth-degree felony offenses for obtaining, possessing or using drugs or drug paraphernalia to be reclassified as no higher than first-degree misdemeanors.

The issue is expected to face opposition from the state's judges, with the executive director of the Ohio Judicial Conference saying the issue is one that should be handled in legislation, not in the constitution.

### **Siting Board Staff Issues Recommended Safety, Environmental Conditions For Proposed Off-Shore Turbines**

Staff of the Ohio Power Siting Board has submitted their recommendations for a slew of conditions they believe should be placed on a proposed off-shore wind farm in Lake Erie.

The 59-page report finalized this week follows months of investigation into the proposed Project Icebreaker - a 20 megawatt, six-turbine windfarm eyed for 10 miles off Cleveland's coast. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 28, 2018)

The report generally recommends state regulators agree with staff that the Lake Erie Energy Development Corp. has demonstrated adequate need for the project and met other steps required before final board approval.

In doing so, the report suggests 34 conditions be placed upon the project. The conditions themselves vary by subject area, encompassing topics including: ecology; safety; aviation; and air, water and solid waste. (Docket)

Among proposed safety requirements are that LEEDCo: complies with turbine manufacturers' most recent safety recommendations; obtains all relevant construction and transportation permits; enters into a road use agreement with appropriate parties prior to construction and subject to staff review; and mitigate any observed impacts to communication systems including maritime radio within seven days.

The stipulations also address potential impacts on bats and other aviatory wildlife - a point of contention between project backers and wildlife groups who have previously sued in an effort to halt the project. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, November 9, 2017)

The conditions would call for the project to stick to an avian and bat memorandum of understanding and require LEEDCo to submit both a fisheries and aquatic resources construction monitoring plan and an avian and bat impact mitigation plan at least 60 days prior to construction.

LEEDCo would be required to contact the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, staff and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service within 24 hours should it encounter a state or federally endangered species during construction or operation of the turbines. And staff is also seeking to require the corporation adopt a radar monitoring program to continually assess aviation activity.

A public hearing on the project is scheduled for July 19 in Cleveland even as written public comment from stakeholder groups and private citizens continues pouring in to the board on both sides of the issue.

Most recently, the Environmental Defense Fund urged support for the project, noting that LEEDCo had initially planned for project approval by February 2017. Since then, backers have submitted "an overwhelming amount of documentation to support is application" which EDF argues "easily meets or exceeds" the board's approval criteria.

"These projects will play a key role in reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions," EDF Midwest Policy Director Dick Munson wrote. "These projects take on greater importance now that the federal government may be about to misuse the Defense Production Act to provide illegal, uneconomic subsidies for old coal and gas plants."

He was referring to ongoing debate among the Trump Administration, which is considering using the law to offer new emergency financial supports to unprofitable plants. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 1, 2018)

### **Democrats Argue DeWine's ECOT Action 'Too Little, Too Late'**

While Attorney General Mike DeWine contends jurisdictional and procedural hurdles have kept him from playing a leading role in the drama surrounding the now-shuttered Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow, Democratic critics Thursday claimed he could have found a way to get involved earlier.

The criticisms followed a Tuesday court filing from the AG's office, which reiterated its interest in prosecuting financial claims ECOT has against third parties, including school founder Bill Lager. The state could recover public money by pursuing civil claims of breach of fiduciary duty and violation of the state's Corrupt Practices Act and its prohibition on public officials having interests in public contracts against Mr. Lager, according to the filing. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 3, 2018)

Tax records show ECOT, which closed its doors in January, transferred at least \$200 million to two other firms controlled by Mr. Lager, Altair Learning Management and IQ Innovations, according to the AG's filing.

Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper in a conference call Thursday said the Republican gubernatorial candidate's move to pursue claims against Mr. Lager is "too little, too late."

"Mike DeWine should have acted ... long before ECOT became a clear political liability," he said.

Dan Tierney, spokesman for the attorney general, said the office's response to the ECOT matter has been shaped by jurisdictional and procedural constraints.

"Under Ohio law, the attorney general does not have original jurisdiction in most criminal matters," he said, citing election fraud, workers' compensation fraud and certain organized crime cases involving drug and human trafficking among the areas in which the office does have jurisdiction.

County prosecutor's offices, he said, retain jurisdiction in the "vast majority" of criminal cases.

Earlier this year, State Auditor Dave Yost referred his office's audit of ECOT for potential criminal prosecution to the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office and the U.S. Attorney's Office after determining school officials submitted inaccurate data to the Department of Education. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 10, 2018)

Mr. Pepper said he thinks the jurisdictional concerns are "just an excuse." He said the attorney general's filing from earlier in the week "shows the entire state he could have gotten involved years ago."

"That particular set of facts has been painfully clear for years," he said of the ties among companies controlled by Mr. Lager.

Mr. Tierney said it's important to note the legal effort under discussion, which ECOT sponsor the Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West launched to get the court to appoint a receiver to manage and wind down operations at the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow, began in January. The AG's office wants to pursue financial claims the shuttered school has against third parties in order to recoup taxpayer money without enlisting an outside firm that would take its own cut, he said.

"Part of the issue here is we have strong claims now that ECOT has closed that would not have been ripe prior to ECOT's closure," he said.

Mr. Tierney added AG DeWine is still waiting on approval from a Franklin County Common Pleas Court judge to move forward with potential collection actions.

"We're trying to start these proceedings as soon as we can," he said.

Rep. Tavia Galonski (D-Akron), who joined Mr. Pepper on the conference call, said she questions whether the AG could have used his authority to investigate the misuse of public funds to play a larger role in the matter. She added that she and Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) in May requested the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate ECOT after the audit's release.

Mr. Tierney said the AG's office does not have the authority to appoint a special prosecutor in the case without a request from the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office, which has original jurisdiction.

### **High Court Accepts Jurisdiction In Open Meetings Act Case**

The Ohio Supreme Court has agreed to take up a case that could determine if public bodies violate the Open Meetings Act by utilizing secret ballots.

The court has accepted the appeal of Patricia Meade, who alleged the Village of Bratenahl violated the law in 2015 when its council utilized a secret ballot to elect a president pro tempore.

The election required three rounds of voting, and the ballots were reviewed only by the village's law director, according to Ms. Meade, who is the publisher of a community news publication. (Docket)

In her memorandum in support of jurisdiction, Ms. Meade cites an advisory opinion from the attorney general's office and a 2016 Ohio Supreme Court ruling in which it found a



private and prearranged discussion of public business by a majority of a public body through email violates the state's open meeting laws. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 3, 2016)

"The OMA expressly declares that it is to be liberally construed in openness so as to require public officials to take official action and conduct all deliberations upon official business only in open meetings. In so doing, this court must conclude and declare that secret-ballot voting violates the OMA," she wrote.

Both the trial court and the Eight District Court of Appeals sided with the village in the case.

Ms. Meade said the appellate court ruling "created a standard that does not advance the purposes and goals of the OMA, but directly undermines them."

The Ohio Coalition for Open Government struck a similar tone in its amicus brief supporting jurisdiction in the case.

"If permitted to stand, the decision below will allow local governments to effectively operate in secret, impairing the public's ability to hold their representatives accountable," the group wrote. "Public knowledge of government operations is vital to the legitimacy of local governments in Ohio."

The village, however, said there is no statute or case law that spells out how a vote for president pro tempore should be conducted.

"In fact, (the law) authorizes a legislative authority of a municipal corporation to determine its own rules and in this matter, village council followed its own past practice of using a contemporaneous vote by ballot to elect president pro tempore to a one-year term," the village wrote in opposing jurisdiction in the case.

The village also contends that the secret ballots were not designed to hide public business.

"Contrary to appellant's argument, the purpose of the handwritten ballot was not (to) conceal, but rather, to vote contemporaneously," it wrote. "A contemporaneous vote by handwritten ballot assures comradeship and precludes the potential public pressure resulting from hearing the other councilmember's votes."

### **O'Connor's Latest Ad Features Kasich Voter; Becker Blasts U.S. Supreme Court; LPO Seeks Minor Party Status...**

Democrat Danny O'Connor's latest ad in his congressional bid seeks to bolster his standing with Republican voters who still back Gov. John Kasich.

In the ad, "Shannon," a Delaware woman lays out her rationale for voting for the Franklin County recorder.

"I voted for John Kasich the last three times. I voted for Trump because I didn't like the way things were going in Washington, and now I'm supporting Danny O'Connor," Shannon Ward says in the spot. "John Kasich and Danny O'Connor both don't worry about the labels of Democrat or Republican; they're going to get things done either way."

**Janus Decision:** Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.), a proponent of right-to-work laws, praised the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision in *Janus* in which it found that non-union workers cannot be forced to pay fees to public sector unions.

However, he also blasted the court for legislating from the bench.

"The good news is that we now have public sector right-to-work across the United States. The bad news is that the little kings in black robes continue to overstep their constitutional authority by forcing their opinions down the throats of the rest of us," he said in a statement.

"The U.S. Constitution does not give the Supreme Court of the United States the authority to rule over the entire nation. Rather, they are only superior to the lower courts. Nor does the U.S. Constitution grant the Supreme Court veto power over legislation, also known as judicial review. These are powers that the justices of the court have granted to themselves."

**Minor Party:** The Libertarian Party of Ohio is seeking to regain its minor party status.

The group recently submitted 102,762 signatures to Secretary of State Jon Husted to do just that. A total of 54,964 valid petition signatures are needed to achieve the designation.

The party plans to announce a slate of 2018 candidates on July 14.

**GM Investment:** Mahoning Valley lawmakers are urging General Motors to reinvest in the area.

The call comes after the company announced that it would lay off second shift employees at its Lordstown plant.

In a letter to CEO Mary Barra, the lawmakers urge her to reconsider the decision.

"The Valley wants to continue to support GM. As this great American company evolves to meet the demands of the future, the workers at Lordstown want to evolve with the company they have devoted themselves to," they wrote. "There is a will to double down and train the current workforce for the jobs of tomorrow. Our workers and our communities want to continue to be a partner in a mutually beneficial relationship with GM."

The letter was signed by Rep. Job Bocchieri (D-Alliance), Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald), Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown), Rep. Michael O'Brien (D-Warren), Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) and Sen. Sean O'Brien (D-Bazetta).

**Immigration Rally:** More than 400 people rallied Thursday at the Statehouse to protest President Donald Trump's policy of separating parents from children at the border.

Community Development for All People, the Ohio Hispanic Coalition and the Children's Defense Fund Ohio sponsored the event.

### **OEC Urges Steps To Tackle Algal Blooms; Portman, Brown Push Back On Dredging**

The Ohio Environmental Council is continuing to press for state-level action as algal blooms continue to grow in several parts of Lake Erie.

At the same time, Ohio's senators are pressing for protections against toxic dredging in the lake in a pending federal funding bill.

The debate over how to best tackle runoff fueling those blooms continues as lawmakers and Gov. John Kasich each mull respective legislative or executive action. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 2, 2018)

OEC Water Resources Director Peter Bucher said in a statement that recent high temperatures create the "perfect scenario for harmful algal blooms to occur earlier than normal."

"These blooms have already caused water advisories for beaches in northeastern Ohio and will likely disrupt recreation and tourism going forward over the summer," Mr. Bucher said.

"This problem isn't getting better and it won't simply go away," he said. "Wastewater treatment plants across Ohio need to be updated, and comprehensive nutrient management plans should be required in order to reduce agricultural runoff, or these blooms will remain an annual occurrence, and potentially worsen over time."

**Dredging:** U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) secured their proposal to shield Lake Erie from dredging activity in a funding bill headed for the House.

The language is included in the Energy and Water Appropriations Act and would prohibit the Army Corps of Engineers from dumping toxic dredged material from the Cuyahoga River into the lake without the state's approval.

The provision, however, must clear hurdles in the House where representatives are tasked with reconciling their proposals with those of the Senate.

"The Cleveland Harbor project is vital to all of Ohio and we must ensure that the dredged material is not inappropriately disposed of by dumping it in Lake Erie without approval by the Ohio EPA," Sen. Portman said. "I will continue (to) use every tool available to make sure both the City of Cleveland's water supply and Lake Erie's ecosystem is protected."

Added Sen. Brown: "Lake Erie is a source of pride for Ohio - it's important for local businesses, local jobs, and the local ecosystem. This language will help us keep Lake Erie clean, keep the channel open for business, and ensure the Lake remains a viable resource for generations to come."

### **Annual Short-Term Technical Certificates Top 13K; Facilities Construction Commission To Host Tech Webinar; Work Begins on OSU's Franklin County Extension Office**

The Department of Higher Education announced 13,403 students earned short-term technical certificates from postsecondary education entities in the state in fiscal year 2017.

The state's community colleges and universities awarded 6,307 of the certificates during the year, while technical centers awarded the remaining 7,096, according to data from the ODHE.

Students earn the credentials by completing study programs of less than 30 credit hours or 900 clock hours in preparation for licensure and careers in fields such as nursing, firefighting and welding.

**Tech:** The Facilities Construction Commission will conduct a webinar for school administrators involved in building or renovation projects next week.

The presentation, which is titled "Everything You Need to Know About Tech in 30 Minutes," is set for 10-11 a.m. July 11.

Topics set for discussion during the presentation include augmented and virtual reality, flat panels and projectors and strategies for coordinating maintenance and security ahead of a building's opening day.

Prospective participants can register for the webinar online.

The commission also is currently accepting applications for the second round of its Lead Plumbing Fixture Replacement Assistance Grant Program.

Officials at schools built before 1990 can apply for up to \$15,000 through the program to replace drinking fountains, piping and other fixtures. Schools must seek funding through the program by the July 31 application deadline.

More information about the program can be found on the commission's website.

**Extension:** Ohio State University has broken ground on a 10,500-square-foot facility on the site of its Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory.

Kunz-Brundige Franklin County Extension Office - the first of three new buildings planned on the site - is being funded through an \$11 million donation from Patricia Brundige that also supports two Franklin County 4H educator positions.

"We envision the Kunz-Brundige Franklin County Extension Office as a hub for teaching, research and community engagement around food, health, agricultural production and sustainability," Cathann Kress, OSU's vice president for agricultural administration, said in a statement. "Thanks to the generosity of Pat Brundige, a longtime volunteer and advocate for OSU Extension, this facility will increase our engagement with the Franklin County community through educational programs and events for youth and adults."

OSU's Franklin County extension currently offers educational programs to thousands of children and adults every year, according to a news release from OSU.

**E-schools:** An online charter school advocacy group has requested Gov. John Kasich sign legislation containing conditional protections for schools that took in students from the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow after it closed in January.

The Ohio eSchool Families and Friends Coalition on Thursday released a letter written by its president, Sara Donlon, urging the governor to refrain from vetoing the measure (SB 216), which the House passed last week.

"There's important language protecting public charter schools from being put at risk of closure, unfairly, simply for doing the right thing and accepting any and all ECOT students who needed a safe harbor," she wrote. "As you know, ECOT closed on a Friday and those families needed a place to go to ensure that their children's education was not interrupted. Our schools took them in under trying circumstances."

An amendment to the measure, which makes dozens of changes to the state's K-12 education system, creates a safe harbor from certain consequences, including closure, for schools that saw their enrollment grow by 10% from taking in ECOT students. The Senate later adopted amendments to another piece of legislation (HB 87) that bumped up the threshold to 20% and clarified that schools already set for closure without taking data from former ECOT students into account would not be protected by the safe harbor.

## **Supplemental Agency Calendar**

**Wednesday, July 18**

---

Statewide Independent Living Council, Embassy Suites Columbus Airport, 2886 Airport Dr., Columbus, 10 a.m. (Committee meetings)

**Thursday, July 19**

---

Statewide Independent Living Council, Embassy Suites Columbus Airport, 2886 Airport Dr.,  
Columbus, 1 p.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630  
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com)

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed,  
Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2018, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without  
the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101  
et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic  
mail.



## Senate Activity for Thursday, July 5, 2018


### INTRODUCED

**SB 315** ■ **POLICE REPORTS (Yuko, K.)** To prohibit law enforcement agencies from including identifying information of sexual assault victims in police reports posted online. Am. 149.436

---

17 S. High St., Suite 630  
Columbus Ohio 43215  
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com)

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2018, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



## Daily Activity Planner for Friday, July 6

### Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

### Agency Calendar

No agency meetings scheduled.

### Event Planner

No events scheduled.

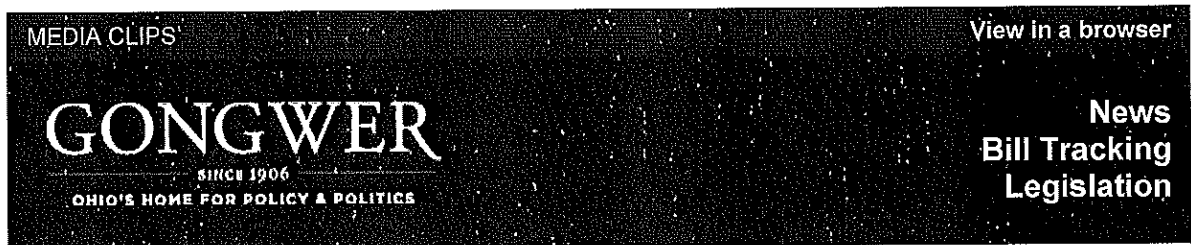
17 S. High St., Suite 630  
Columbus Ohio 43215  
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com)

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

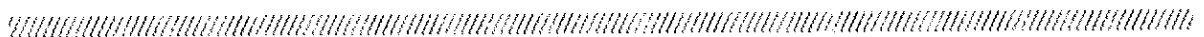
© 2018, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



**From:** Gongwer News Service  
**Sent:** Friday, July 6, 2018 8:29 AM  
**To:** Sarko, Alyssa  
**Subject:** Ohio Media Clips, Friday, July 6



## NEWS



**Payday loans, guns among stalled issues at Ohio Statehouse  
(Associated Press, 7/6/2018)**

**Status of 2,300 former ECOT students unknown, Associated Press  
reports (Associated Press, 7/6/2018)**

**Why is PG Sittenfeld raising money? (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/6/2018)**

**Why Ohio keeps voting on odd, complicated issues (Cincinnati Enquirer,  
7/6/2018)**

**Ohio drug treatment and rehabilitation amendment could be on  
November ballot (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/6/2018)**

**Ohio Libertarians seek a return to the ballot this year (Cleveland Plain  
Dealer, 7/6/2018)**

**Right-to-work group demands Ohio stop collecting union dues from  
some state workers (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/6/2018)**

**What medical conditions can be treated with medical marijuana in Ohio?  
(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/6/2018)**

**Democrat Danny O'Connor launches ad linking himself to ... John Kasich? (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)**

**DeWine says hands tied on pursuing ECOT -- until trial-court ruling (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)**

### Ohio Libertarians submit petition forms to regain minor-party status (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)

**Ohio native Andrew Wheeler, former coal lobbyist, is new EPA leader (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)**

**Trump says he doesn't believe allegations against Jim Jordan; new victim emerges (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)**

**Congressman Jim Jordan knew about sex abuse at OSU, former wrestlers say (Dayton Daily News, 7/6/2018)**

**Medical marijuana in Ohio: 8 key questions answered as the program nears (Dayton Daily News, 7/6/2018)**

**Ohio lawmakers respond to EPA chief resignation (Dayton Daily News, 7/6/2018)**

**Local dog breeders, retailers react to new anti-puppy-mill law (Toledo Blade, 7/6/2018)**

**Two Ballot Campaigns Spend Holiday Collecting Signatures (WOSU Public Media, 7/6/2018)**

## EDITORIALS

~~~~~

Editorial: Statehouse security should be applied evenly to all (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)

Richard Cordray's Nazi analogy was an overreach (Toledo Blade, 7/6/2018)

Slavery in Ohio (Toledo Blade, 7/6/2018)

This message is provided to you as part of your subscription to Gongwer News Service.

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com. This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

[View as a Web Page](#)

Copyright 2018, Gongwer News Service/Ohio
17 S. High St., Suite 630, Columbus OH 43215

All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without express permission from Gongwer News Service.

[unsubscribe](#)

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Friday, July 6, 2018 8:41 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 7/6/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

7/6/2018



OHIO UNSURE OF STATUS OF 2,300 STUDENTS FROM CLOSED E-SCHOOL

Many of the students enrolled in Ohio's largest online charter school when it closed in January have transferred to other schools, but state officials don't know what happened with about 2,300 students.

OHIO NATIVE ANDREW WHEELER, FORMER COAL LOBBYIST, IS NEW EPA LEADER

The new leader of the Environmental Protection Agency is a former coal industry lobbyist who helped lead an industry fight against regulations that protect Americans' health and address climate change.



DEWINE SAYS HANDS TIED ON PURSUING ECOT -- UNTIL TRIAL-COURT RULING

Responding to critics questioning why it did not take action against ECOT founder Bill Lager years ago, the office of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine says its hands were legally tied until a lower court ruling in March.

OHIO LIBERTARIANS SUBMIT PETITION FORMS TO REGAIN MINOR-PARTY STATUS

The Libertarian Party of Ohio expects its comeback to succeed, allowing the party to field candidates for governor, U.S. Senate and other offices this fall.

DEMOCRAT DANNY O'CONNOR LAUNCHES AD LINKING HIMSELF TO ... JOHN KASICH?

In a bid to win the support of independents and moderate Republicans, Democratic congressional candidate Danny O'Connor has launched a 30-second TV commercial

featuring an endorsement from a Delaware woman who voted for Ohio Gov. John Kasich and President Donald Trump.

EDITORIAL: STATEHOUSE SECURITY SHOULD BE APPLIED EVENLY TO ALL

It is disappointing that Statehouse security officials and a two-term state representative haven't been able to resolve the lawmaker's allegation that she has been inappropriately hassled multiple times while trying to enter the building.

THE PLAIN DEALER

RIGHT-TO-WORK GROUP DEMANDS OHIO STOP COLLECTING UNION DUES FROM SOME STATE WORKERS

A "right-to-work" advocacy group has threatened to launch a class-action suit against Ohio and 19 other states if they don't immediately stop deducting union dues from non-union public employees' paychecks following a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

OHIO DRUG TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION AMENDMENT COULD BE ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

Supporters of a proposal to reduce penalties for nonviolent drug crime offenders submitted hundreds of thousands of signatures on Wednesday to put the measure on the November ballot.

WHAT MEDICAL CONDITIONS CAN BE TREATED WITH MEDICAL MARIJUANA IN OHIO?

The success of a state's medical marijuana program can hinge on what medical conditions qualify a patient for treatment with cannabis.

OHIO LIBERTARIANS SEEK A RETURN TO THE BALLOT THIS YEAR

After almost four years in the political wilderness, the Libertarian Party of Ohio is seeking to regain state recognition for the 2018 midterm election.

'RIGHT-TO-WORK' GROUP THREATENS TO SUE OHIO AFTER SUPREME COURT RULING: CAPITOL LETTER

Just due it: A "right-to-work" advocacy group has threatened Ohio with a lawsuit if it doesn't immediately stop collecting union dues from non-union state workers.

THE ENQUIRER

DIALYSIS TO DUELS: WHY OHIO KEEPS VOTING ON ODD, COMPLICATED BALLOT ISSUES

Are you well-versed in kidney dialysis pricing? Do you understand how Medicaid pays for prescription drugs?

THE BLADE

One of America's Great Newspapers

RICHARD CORDRAY'S NAZI ANALOGY WAS AN OVERREACH

Republicans have pounced on Ohio Democratic governor candidate Richard Cordray for referencing Nazis in two recent rallies.

LOCAL DOG BREEDERS, RETAILERS REACT TO NEW ANTI-PUPPY-MILL LAW

Richard Stroshine, co-owner of Stroshine's Studs and Buds in Northwood, is too familiar with the horrors of puppy mills.

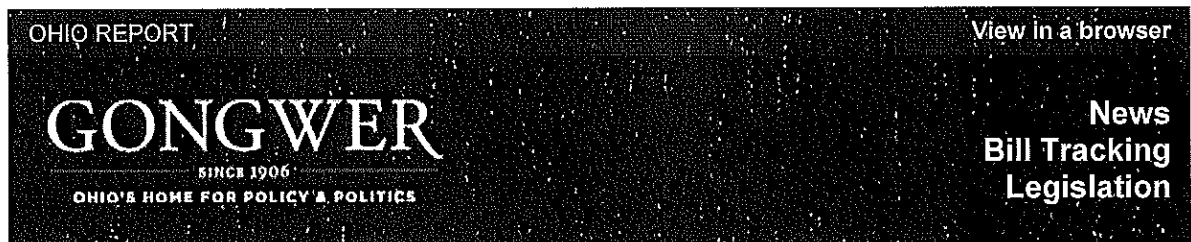
EDITORIAL: SLAVERY IN OHIO

Former U.S. Attorney Steve Dettelbach is running for Attorney General of Ohio, in part, on the promise that he will focus on human trafficking.

EDITORIAL: REGISTER TO VOTE NOW

If you haven't voted in a while, check to make sure you are registered.

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Friday, July 6, 2018 5:55 PM
To: Sarko, Alyssa
Subject: Ohio Report, Friday, July 6, 2018
Attachments: Jul6.htm; 180706dayplan.htm; Jul9Schedule.htm; 180706plan.htm



OHIO REPORT

FRIDAY, JULY 6

Payday Lending Proposal Slated For Rare Summer Action In Senate Next Week

State Touts Mental Health Parity With Managed Care Integration Of Behavioral Services

CAUV 'On the Road To Correction' Following Budget Changes, Group Says

Ed Board Expected To Debate, Vote On Third-Grade Reading Benchmark

Rover, FERC Staff Spar Over Land Restoration, Pipeline Operations

Public Comments Continue On State, Federal Lifeline Proposals

'Sweeping' Changes In Store After Federal Regulators Reject PJM Capacity Market Plans

Agency Briefs: Hurst To Replace Plouck At ODMHAS; U.S. Unemployment Rate Up; OSHP; ODNR

Burke Blasts Cordray's Medicaid Comments; Soybean Group Sounds Tariff Alarm; Boccieri Calls For More Local Funding

Case Remanded After Judge Cites Article In Sentencing; High Court Denies Stay Of Execution; Buckeye Institute Weighs In On Case...

Portman Sets Sights On Deferred Park Maintenance; Dems Welcome Pruitt's Exit; Ryan Tours Immigrant Facility

Capitol Scene: Child Caring Group Updates Name

Governor's Appointments

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

CALENDARS

.....

Day Planner

Legislative Committee Schedules

Event Planner

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com. This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

[View as a Web Page](#)

Copyright 2018, Gongwer News Service/Ohio

17 S. High St., Suite 630, Columbus OH 43215

All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without express permission from Gongwer News Service.

[unsubscribe](#)



Volume #87, Report #130 -- Friday, July 6, 2018

Payday Lending Proposal Slated For Rare Summer Action In Senate Next Week

An expected legislative break is being cut short for the Senate as the chamber is set to return next week to continue its work considering a contentious overhaul of short-term lending laws.

The payday lending bill (HB 123) is slated for consideration by the Senate Finance Committee Monday and Tuesday, if necessary. The measure is expected to come up before the full Senate Tuesday morning.

The Finance Committee meetings are expected to be the only committee action of the week.

John Fortney, spokesman for Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina), said amendments are expected Monday or Tuesday.

What that language will look like remains unclear.

The committee spent much of last week hearing testimony on the measure and weighing potential changes offered by Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima).

Backers of the original language, which would limit fees and interest rates and require repayment to be capped at 5% of the borrower's income, balked at proposed changes in the Senate. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 21, 2018)

Proponents, including the Pew Charitable Trusts, voiced openness to some changes, such as increasing the allowable loan sizes and rates, that would still preserve the overarching framework. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 25, 2018)

Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) said this week he had prepared amendments to that effect but wasn't sure whether the committee would work from the House-passed language or from a framework outlined by Sen. Huffman.

"My amendments were directed toward 123 based on what I heard in terms of testimony and in terms of what could help within the structure of 123 to increase the costs a little bit to help out the lenders," he said in an interview.

Those discussions have included increased rates and allowable fees, including raising the limit on what a borrower can be required to pay back to perhaps as high as 10% of their income, Sen. Dolan said.

"That would obviously increase the ability for the borrower to borrow more money," Sen. Dolan said. "We're trying to find that fine line."

Supporters of the initial language have said raising the 5% income limit to perhaps 7% or 8% would be acceptable, but 10% could be too high.

Sen. Huffman's proposals would create a framework around the total costs of installment loans, limiting those to a per diem rate based on the size and duration of the loan. He has said the proposal would also cap the total principal amount a borrower could have out at any one time at \$2,500. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 26, 2018)

State Touts Mental Health Parity With Managed Care Integration Of Behavioral Services

With the July 1 carve-in of behavioral health services in Medicaid into managed care, the state says it is now compliant with a 2008 federal law requiring parity for mental health and addiction services.

The departments of Medicaid and of Mental Health and Addiction Services released a report examining compliance by managed care plans in providing parity in patients' access to those services.

The state was initially scheduled to show compliance in October 2017 but received approval from federal regulators to wait until the July 1 integration of behavioral health services into managed care. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 28, 2018)

"That gave us the opportunity to have our implementation dates be the same as our carve-in," Medicaid Director Barbara Sears said in an interview.

The behavioral health integration is a separate effort from the work toward parity, but the state decided to have those dates coincide because of the way it framed its plan with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said Patrick Stephan, director of managed care for ODM.

"What we didn't want to do was have to go through the process twice," he said. "Had we not connected this with our integration of behavioral health services into managed care, we would've had to have done it on the fee-for-service side."

Parity means managed care plans will be prevented from having cumbersome prior authorization requirements, limits on service days or other restrictions on mental health services that aren't used on physical health services, Mr. Stephan said.

"At its core, this act requires us to make certain that within Medicaid, and in this case within the managed care plans' administration of the benefit, that we do not have qualitative or quantitative requirements on mental health services that are more stringent than what you would get on the physical side," he said.

Mr. Stephan said the move toward managed care will also help ensure patients' access to mental health services because plans are required to provide that access and can incentivize providers in order to achieve it.

"In the fee for service side, we had very little ability to encourage new providers into the market," he said. "On the managed care side, we have standards that the plans must meet, and if they don't, then they get fined, they get penalized."

Lori Criss, CEO of the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers, said parity is key but questioned whether the system has actually achieved the goal.

"Fully implementing and robustly enforcing the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 is critically important to ensure that Ohioans can understand and access the health insurance benefits rightly available to them," she said in a statement. "While we appreciate Ohio Medicaid's compliance report, the analysis appears to lack sufficient detail to support its broad conclusion without review of the underlying assessment documents."

Moving forward, the state will have to ensure parity standards are met, she said.

"The real test will be how well Medicaid promotes transparency and holds the plans accountable for the law's requirements," she said. "The Ohio Parity at 10 Coalition looks forward to working with lawmakers and the administration to raise awareness of the law's benefits to Ohioans, their families and employers."

CAUV 'On the Road To Correction' Following Budget Changes, Group Says

Budget language aimed at alleviating increased costs from rising Current Agricultural Use Values are having their intended impact, the Ohio Farmers Union told state officials recently.

The Department of Taxation each year holds a public hearing in June to brief farmers and interest groups on the latest values and to gather feedback on the subject.

In recent years, the meetings have been the site of much angst as some farmers grapple with sharp increases. During the 2014 tax year, the high watermark, increases were seen as high as 400%. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 2, 2017)

"We had tremendous increase in the CAUV values going back to 2008," said Ted Finnarn, attorney for the organization. "Because of (the changes), the CAUV values have come down and are heading back down to where they should have been."

But the latest meeting came and went with little fanfare, with the union providing the only testimony and praising the recent changes.

"We're finally on the road to correction," Mr. Finnarn said in an interview. "By the 2020 cycle, the CAUV values will be down so farmers have more reasonable taxes."

Gloria Gardner, assistant administrator for the department, said the statewide average value for cropland came in at \$1,015 per acre for tax year 2018, down about 27% from 2015 values which were \$1,388. The values are updated every three years as counties undergo their appraisal process.

"The values are dropping pretty significantly due to some of the changes that were in House Bill 49 in 2017 and this is the second year of implementing those changes," Ms. Gardner said. "The woodland values are also coming down."

The budget changes, which originated in the Senate, modified the factors to be used in computing the values and placed a ceiling on the taxable value of CAUV land if it is also used for conservation purposes. The changes were phased across two stages over a six year assessment cycle.

"We sort of had a perfect storm - all of these things coming together - and we had extremely high values that were unwarranted and unfair and unprecedented," Mr. Finnarn said. "Now we're on the road to having more reasonable real estate taxes for farmers and woodland owners."

Not all parties were pleased with the budget changes, however. School groups expressed repeated concerns with how the changes might impact their districts, forecasting a 30% reduction in farming property values that would shift the burden onto other property owners.

Barbara Shaner, advocacy specialist for the Ohio Association of School Business Officials, said those fears continue.

"We're still sorting out the results of the most recent information from the tax department but we also think we won't see the full effect for a few more years because not all the counties have undergone their reevaluation," Ms. Shaner said. "We remain concerned and we'll continue to monitor the way it's turning out."

Ed Board Expected To Debate, Vote On Third-Grade Reading Benchmark

The State Board of Education is set to vote to increase the Third Grade Reading Guarantee promotion score next weekend at its monthly meeting.

A proposal to raise the benchmark students would need to meet on the Ohio State Test for third grade English and language arts from 672 to 677 was set for a possible vote by the panel's Achievement and Graduation Requirements Committee last month, but it ultimately delayed its decision. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 12, 2018)

The committee is once again scheduled to discuss the proposal at its 8:30 a.m. Tuesday meeting, with the full board expected to consider the resolution enacting the change later that day. The resolution is set for consideration as an emergency measure, so it would take effect before the start of the next school year.

The state board is required by law to review the third grade language arts benchmark and adjust it upward annually until it reaches 700, which indicates proficiency, according to a memo sent to committee members late last month by the Department of Education's legal staff.

Despite the requirement that the score increase, the committee balked at recommending the promotion score be set at 677 last month, with multiple members asking for more time to discuss the potential change with local school district officials.

District 4 board member Pat Bruns at the time said she was concerned raising the score could mean districts' improvements at teaching young readers would not be reflected in state report cards, sending a "false message" to community members.

An overview of the issue provided by ODE to the committee states that: "Because of the state law, the education community is expecting to see a modest increase in the promotion score. No one will be surprised by an increase."

ODE also argues the change in the overall language arts score from 672 to 677 corresponds to the smallest possible increase in the reading subscore, from 44 to 45.

"It is possible this change will not increase the number or percent of students who are retained. If there is a reduction in the number of students promoted, we would expect it to be small," the overview states.

At-large board member Laura Kohler, the committee's chairwoman, previously said she supports the plan to increase the benchmark to 677 because administrators and teachers have been preparing for it with increased aid from the state.

"We're looking at a different landscape than we were a couple of year ago with the supports that are in place," she said.

Subscriber's Note: The full agenda for the State Board of Education's Monday and Tuesday meeting is available online.

Rover, FERC Staff Spar Over Land Restoration, Pipeline Operations

Rover Pipeline operators, long at odds with state regulators, are now amping up their frustration with their federal overseers.

In recent missives, Rover Pipeline LCC blasted Federal Energy Regulatory Commission staff for what it considers the commission's failure to authorize full operation of a major section of the controversial project. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 1, 2018)

The lack of action on FERC's part has left Rover "more than a little baffled," wrote Rover Senior Vice President Chris Sonneborn. But FERC staff said the delays are prompted by Rover's failure to restore land impacted by the project by a June 30 deadline. The

company in recent weeks has informed staff restoration efforts are likely to continue until "at least" July 30.

According to Rover, FERC staff in May authorized service to commence on a main segment of the pipeline called Supply Connector Line B. But in doing so, staff withheld granting in-service authorization for two laterals pending further review.

"As a result of staff's inaction, significant volumes of natural gas have been unable to flow on pipeline facilities that have been completed for nearly a month," Mr. Sonneborn wrote. "This is unfortunate, because...the incremental natural gas supply that would have been available to flow would have been used to offset the large deficit the nation is facing to replenish storage inventories in preparation for the 2018-2019 heating season...."

Failure to act soon, the company claims, is outside "the public interest." But FERC declined to be persuaded by the company's comments. Staff instead responded with a formal notice directing the company to complete outstanding restoration activities at those two Ohio sites.

"Because restoration of these facilities was not complete at the time of in-service authorization, Rover committed to completing the remaining restoration activities by specific dates," wrote John Wood, FERC's deputy director of the Office of Energy Projects. "However, commission staff monitoring certificate compliance believes that rover will be unable to meet a number of those commitments...."

As a result, staff directed Rover to take "prompt and immediate action" and to file prior to July 9 a detailed account of why the company cannot adhere to the agreed upon timetable.

"Neither the commission nor its staff takes lightly a pipeline's commitments to restore and rehabilitate affected lands," Mr. Wood said. "Accordingly, the commission expects pipelines to follow through on their commitments to restore and rehabilitate land and other resources disturbed by the construction of a certificated pipeline."

In response, Mr. Sonneborn issued a second letter this week leveling further attacks, accusing FERC staff of making "several inaccurate statements" toward the project and the company's willingness to fulfill its land restoration commitments.

"For the record, and as Rover has stated previously in this docket on numerous occasions, Rover will honor and meet all of its restoration commitments - whether those are scheduled to occur before or after Rover is fully in service," Rover wrote. "Any implication to the contrary is simply untrue."

Rover now is also accusing FERC staff of "a fundamental misunderstanding" of how the restoration process works.

"A company can supply ample resources, equipment, and personnel to restoration efforts; however, the variable of weather, and therefore the pace of restoration, is simply outside of any pipeline's control," Rover wrote. "There is no amount of planning or resources that can change the reality that on any major pipeline project there are always going to be changes to the restoration schedule due to events outside of the pipeline's control."

The company's public pushback accusing FERC of stating falsehoods is much like the back-and-forth Rover has engaged in with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Rover and the OEPA have engaged in a months-long back and forth with Rover accusing OEPA of cooperating with the company in private but taking an adversarial approach in public.

That tiff ultimately led to a lawsuit filed by the state, which Rover and several other defendants have filed to dismiss. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 5, 2018)

Public Comments Continue On State, Federal Lifeline Proposals

Stakeholder groups and citizens are continuing their efforts to thwart state and federal proposals that would eliminate in whole or in part a federal discount program for low-income customers.

At the state level, AT&T is proposing to discontinue its participation in the federal Lifeline program - which grants eligible customers a \$9.25 monthly credit - in areas in which another provider operates that service.

But the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has yet to approve that plan and in recent days has urged the public to weigh in via written feedback.

Meanwhile, the Federal Communications Commission is weighing a similar but more far-reaching plan that would largely eliminate the resource for a swathe of customers across the country. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 23, 2018)

In the PUCO case, comments have been submitted from a handful of citizens as of Friday, each urging the commission to deny AT&T's plan and maintain the program.

Several commenters described themselves as licensed social workers working with elderly populations. Others are customers who benefit from the program and who labeled the company's attempt to cut it "indefensible" and "abhorrent."

AT&T, for its part, has emphasized that no Ohio customer will lose voice service through the move but will instead receive it at the standard rate. Customers are free, it said, to receive the Lifeline discount from other providers in those areas.

The move "will have only a nominal impact on Ohio consumers who have demonstrated a clear preference for obtaining their Lifeline discount from (companies) other than

AT&T," the company said. "Over the past eight years, AT&T has seen its own Ohio Lifeline subscribership shrink by 94%."

Advocates, though, caution the move would strip vulnerable Ohioans of a valuable resource. The Ohio Consumers' Counsel and the Greater Edgemont Community Coalition are among those protesting the idea. In part, they've urged commissioners to solicit public input and take the federal case into consideration. (Docket)

In the federal case, the Federal Communications Commission is proposing changes critics say will erect more barriers for Lifeline consumers nationwide. There are about 608,000 total subscribers in Ohio, according to proponents of the program.

The PUCO and the Ohio Consumers' Counsel are among parties that have submitted comments in opposition to the federal proposal.

Under the proposed changes, eligible consumers must enroll online first through a third-party verifier and then through a specified carrier. Currently, the customer can enroll directly through their provider.

Proponents of the Lifeline program this week were denied a stay in the case when regulators determined the parties were unlikely to prevail on the merits and would not suffer irreparable injury.

In response, Q Link, the nation's third-largest Lifeline provider, on Thursday filed an emergency motion that if approved would enact additional changes to enable carriers to collect customer information directly from the third-party verifier.

Q Link serves about 40,000 Lifeline customers in Ohio. Sixty-seven percent reside in rural or suburban areas and 82% are new to Lifeline, which the company said indicates they were previously unserved by and may not have access to other providers.

"The...proposed change will be unnecessarily difficult and confusing for consumers," said Q Link CEO Issa Asad in a statement. "Beyond the impact on rural Americans, which will be significant, the new system's failure to include automated links with carriers will unnecessarily cost taxpayers tens of millions of dollars."

'Sweeping' Changes In Store After Federal Regulators Reject PJM Capacity Market Plans

Federal regulators voted along party lines recently to toss aside two proposals from PJM Interconnection to revamp the capacity market, paving the way for a potentially drastic shake up in the months ahead.

PJM in April submitted two competing proposals for FERC's consideration on how to best overhaul the market. But in the end, the commission's 3-2 order went far beyond simply rejecting the proposals and instead paves the way for what one dissenting

commissioner labeled "sweeping" changes for the grid operator that serves 13 states. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 7, 2018)

In short, the commission determined subsidies for renewable and nuclear sources have rendered PJM's current tariff "unjust, unreasonable and unduly discriminatory" in that it fails to ensure adequate competition. FERC is now proposing to expand the minimum offer price rule - which enacts a screening process to gauge the competitiveness of new resources - among other changes.

"We find...the PJM Tariff allows resources receiving out-of-market support to significantly affect capacity prices in a manner that will cause unjust and unreasonable and unduly discriminatory rates in PJM regardless of the intent motivating the support," the majority wrote. "We are compelled...to conclude that out-of-market payments by certain PJM states have reached a level sufficient to significantly impact the capacity market clearing prices and the integrity of the resulting price signals on which investors and consumers rely to guide the orderly entry and exit of capacity resources."

Stakeholder groups in Ohio and beyond are still parsing the details of the 106-page order, but they have a short timetable to digest its ramifications. After the 60-day comment window, parties have 30 days for reply comments after which FERC wants to reach a solution.

PJM issued a statement stating its pleasure that FERC is taking action.

"The order appears to be a positive step to change competitive electric market design while recognizing the important role states play in influencing the resource mix through retail energy policies," according to PJM. "We will begin work immediately to develop the kind of bifurcated capacity construct envisioned by the commission and actively engage stakeholders, including the states, within the timetable laid out by the commission."

But FERC's two Democratic members issued scathing dissents regarding the substance of the order and the timeline laid out by the majority.

"Let's be clear: through its action today, the majority signals its intent to adopt, through a 90-day paper hearing, the most sweeping changes to the PJM capacity construct since the market's inception more than a decade ago," Commissioner Cheryl LaFleur wrote in her dissent. "If ultimately adopted, this proposal would fundamentally rebalance the resource adequacy responsibilities of the states, the commission, and PJM."

Commissioner Richard Glick said the commission in its order "entirely fails" to demonstrate its claims the market is unjust and further criticized the timeline.

"Requiring interested parties to decipher today's order, develop testimony, gather evidence, and meaningfully respond within 60 days is irresponsible," he said. "On top of that, this short timeframe essentially guarantees that PJM will not be able to work with the states to develop a proposal that aligns with state policies."

Agency Briefs: Hurst To Replace Plouck At ODMHAS; U.S. Unemployment Rate Up; OSHP; ODNR

Dr. Mark Hurst will replace Tracy Plouck as director of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services next week as Ms. Plouck, a longtime administration official, leaves for the private sector.

Gov. John Kasich announced Dr. Hurst's appointment Friday. He will take over the department effective July 13.

Ms. Plouck has been in Gov. Kasich's cabinet since 2011 and has twice served as state Medicaid director. She also served as deputy director in the Department of Developmental Disabilities and the Office of Budget and Management.

"I'm extremely grateful to Tracy Plouck for her leadership, compassion, counsel and service to Ohio," Gov. Kasich said. "She has a servant spirit and exemplifies the best in public leadership. She is a model for other leaders to follow and I wish her and her family all the best in this new chapter of their lives."

Dr. Hurst has served as medical director at ODMHAS since 2012 and has been at the department since 1993.

"Dr. Hurst's leadership, insights and compassion have distinguished him as a valuable member of our team and contributed mightily to the progress Ohio is beginning to make against addiction and to lift up our fellow Ohioans struggling with mental illness," Gov. Kasich said in a statement. "I appreciate that he's agreed to take on this responsibility. The work ahead is monumental and the challenges will continue to shift, but his leadership has been-and will continue to be-an enormous asset in Ohio's efforts in these areas."

Unemployment: The U.S. added 213,000 jobs in June despite a loss of jobs in retail trade, but the unemployment rate rose to 4% as more people re-entered the labor force, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Friday.

The unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage points to 4% as the number of unemployed people rose by nearly 500,000 to 6.6 million, the BLS reported.

The overall labor force grew significantly, rising by 601,000, with the labor force participation rate rising 0.2 percentage points to 62.9%, the report said.

The survey found job gains of 50,000 for the month in professional and business services. Manufacturing employment grew by 36,000, mostly in durable goods manufacturing, including fabricated metal products (+7,000), computer and electronic products (+5,000) and primary metals (+3,000).

Motor vehicles and parts manufacturing bounced back from a loss of 8,000 jobs in May with a gain of 12,000 in June, the report found.

Health care employment was up 25,000 for the month, construction was up 13,000 and mining was up 5,000.

Retail trade lost 22,000 jobs, a month after seeing a gain of 25,000 in May.

State Highway Patrol: The patrol reported eight people were killed in four deadly crashes during the Fourth of July reporting period Tuesday and Wednesday. Impairment was a factor in at least one of the deadly crashes.

During last year's reporting period, from June 30 to July 4, there were 21 fatal crashes that killed 21 people, including eight OVI-related crashes, the patrol said.

Troopers made 296 impaired driving arrests and 276 arrests on drug charges. They responded to 297 crashes and assisted more than 2,000 motorists.

"When someone chooses to drive impaired the consequences can be deadly," Patrol Superintendent Col. Paul A. Pride said in a statement. "That's why troopers make OVI enforcement a priority, whether they're patrolling during a holiday weekend or any time of day. Motorists should always pre-plan a sober way home."

Natural Resources: The department's officers and partnering agencies issued 102 citations and 895 warnings last weekend during Operation Dry Water, a nationwide crackdown on impaired boating.

There were three boating-related fatalities in Ohio during the weekend, the ODNR said.

ODNR officers and partners contacted 3,500 boaters on 1,261 vessels for various violations during the crackdown.

The Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management reported that 2,840 permits had been issued for drilling in the Utica shale as of June 30, with 2,370 wells drilled and 1,904 in production.

Burke Blasts Cordray's Medicaid Comments; Soybean Group Sounds Tariff Alarm; Boccheri Calls For More Local Funding

A lawmaker on Friday accused Democratic gubernatorial candidate Richard Cordray of either lying about or not understanding the issue of Medicaid expansion.

Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville), who chairs the Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee, accused Mr. Cordray of twice in the past week saying that 26,000 children could be impacted if Medicaid expansion were rolled back.

However, Sen. Burke said in a statement that the expansion covers only childless adults.

"Richard Cordray continues to make Medicaid expansion a key part of his campaign for governor, but his statements over the past week prove he does not understand Ohio's Medicaid program. Cordray's comments in the media show he is either unprepared to be governor, or that he is willing to blatantly lie and use fear tactics to scare Ohioans into voting for him," he said.

"Medicaid comprises over 50% of Ohio's annual budget. If Richard Cordray doesn't understand such a key part of the state budget, then Ohioans simply cannot trust him to sit in the governor's office. Richard Cordray is making promises, and this week he's proven to us that that he doesn't know how he would keep them, even if he wanted to."

In response, the campaign of Mr. Cordray cited a 2016 report from the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families that credited Medicaid expansion for 26,000 children gaining insurance coverage from 2013-2015.

Tariff Concerns: The Ohio Soybean Association is sounding the alarm about retaliatory tariffs China has placed on American soybeans. The tariffs kicked in Friday in response to tariffs enacted by the Trump Administration that same day on an array of Chinese goods.

The group in a statement said 61% of all soybean exports go to China, which accounts for about \$14 billion annually in sales.

"This doesn't only hurt Ohio farmers, it will hurt the entire Ohio economy," said Allen Armstrong, OSA president and soybean farmer from Clark County. "We continue to believe that solutions can be found that do not involve tariffs and a trade war that will hurt all of rural America."

Local Funding: A new report by the Brookings Institute has led to a renewed call for more local government funding.

The report found that from 2010-2017, three Ohio cities ranked in the top 20 in population decline: Youngstown (19), Toledo (12) and Cleveland (5).

Rep. John Boccieri (D-Alliance) in a statement called for additional funding for local governments to stem the tide of population loss.

"You can push the responsibility of raising revenue to the lowest layers of government while sending more and more to state government," he said. "As elected officials, we have a duty to work together to get things done - regardless of who is in charge."

Case Remanded After Judge Cites Article In Sentencing; High Court Denies Stay Of Execution; Buckeye Institute Weighs In On Case...

A federal district court judge erred in doubling a man's sentence after citing a Cleveland.com article on opioid overdoses, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled recently.

Marcus Fleming in July 2016 was pulled over by Canton police and found to be carrying nearly 1,000 grams of cocaine.

Based on federal sentencing guidelines, the prosecution recommended five years in prison for Mr. Fleming.

However, at the sentencing hearing Judge John Adams cited the article before handing down a 10-year sentence.

Mr. Fleming argued he was prejudiced by the use of the article because he did not know it would be cited at the sentencing hearing and he was not provided an opportunity to address the issues raised.

The Sixth Circuit agreed, finding the sentence was rendered in a procedurally unreasonable manner.

"The district court's consideration of information about mixed cocaine-opioid overdose deaths was a surprise because, before the sentencing hearing, there was no indication that opioids were relevant to this case, let alone that they would play a prominent role. Fleming was convicted for possession of cocaine, not opioids," Judge John Rogers wrote in the court's decision.

"Nothing in the record suggested that opioids were found in Fleming's car, or that Fleming had ever sold or possessed opioids, or even that any cocaine Fleming sold had ever been mixed with opioids. Of course, opioids have been a topic of grave public concern in recent years, as their devastating and tragic effects have been felt across the country. But it was far from apparent that they were relevant to Fleming's sentence for possession of cocaine."

Judge Rogers was joined by Judge Raymond Kethledge and Judge Damon Keith in his decision.

The case is remanded back to the district court for sentencing.

Stay Denied: The Ohio Supreme Court has declined to stay the execution of a man set to be put to death this month.

In a unanimous ruling the court declined to stay the July 18 execution of Robert Van Hook.

He is on death row after being convicted of the 1985 murder of David Self.

Judicial Deference: The Buckeye Institute has filed an amicus brief in a case that could end judicial deference to executive agencies' interpretations of the law.

"The practice of courts relying on agencies to interpret the law has proven to be dysfunctional, inconsistent with our constitutional system, and has led to the erosion of individual liberties," President and CEO Robert Alt said in a statement. "It is time for the Supreme Court to junk *Chevron*."

Disciplinary Proceedings: The Board of Professional Conduct announced that 12 cases have been certified for formal disciplinary proceedings.

Portman Sets Sights On Deferred Park Maintenance; Dems Welcome Pruitt's Exit; Ryan Tours Immigrant Facility

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) is among a bipartisan group of senators aiming to tackle about \$12 billion in deferred maintenance within the National Park Service.

He joined with senators Mark Warner (D-VA), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), and Angus King (I-ME) to introduce the Restore Our Parks Act, which has earned support from Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, the National Parks Conservation Association, the Pew Charitable Trusts' Restore America's Parks Campaign and the Outdoor Industry Association.

"For more than a century, the National Park Service has been inspiring Americans to explore the natural beauty of our country," Sen. Portman said in a statement. "But in order to keep that work going, we need to ensure that they have the right resources to maintain our national parks. This bill will create the Legacy Restoration Fund to provide the National Park Service with funds for deferred maintenance projects."

The legislation would provide more than \$100 million in funding for work at parks and historic sites in Ohio. The vast majority of the funding would go toward improvements at two sites: Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial in Put-in-Bay (\$47.7 million) and Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Cuyahoga and Summit counties (\$45.8 million).

Resignation: Democratic members of Ohio's congressional delegation had no kind words for U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt following his resignation Thursday.

"Scott Pruitt used taxpayer dollars to benefit himself while working to gut Lake Erie cleanup and the Renewable Fuel Standard and the Ohio jobs that depend on them," U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown tweeted. "He never should have been confirmed in the first place, and it's past time for him to go."

U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Niles) issued a brief statement in response to the departure: "It's about time."

U.S. Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-Blacklick) simply tweeted "Byeeeeeee!" with a link to a media report about Mr. Pruitt's resignation.

Immigration: Rep. Ryan and three of his U.S. House colleagues from Michigan on Thursday received a tour of Bethany Christian Services' facility in Grand Rapids and learned about the organization's plans to reunite immigrant children with their families.

Rep. Ryan in a statement called the Trump administration's policy of separating children from parents at the U.S.'s southern border "state sponsored abuse."

"Children are traveling by themselves or with their loved ones to avoid violence and danger in their country, and they fled to the United States to find safety and security. They are doing what any responsible parent would do," he said. "But when they arrive at our border, the Trump Administration turns its back on our values and rips children away from their parents - with zero plan to bring them back together."

Hearing: Sen. Brown and Sen. Portman will conduct a field hearing of a congressional committee charged with solving looming pension problems next week at the Statehouse.

The House and Senate Joint Select Committee on Pensions will meet at 2 p.m. next Friday at in the Finan Hearing Room. The hearing will allow panel members to receive testimony from Ohio workers and retirees who could be affected if Congress fails to take action.

Multiple plans Ohioans participate in, including the Central States Teamsters Pension Plan, the United Mine Workers Pension Plan, the Ironworkers Local 17 Pension Plan, the Ohio Southwest Carpenters Pension Plan and the Bakers and Confectioners Pension Plan "are currently on the "brink of failure," according to a news release from Sen. Portman's office.

The committee, which has 16 members appointed by House and Senate leadership, has been tasked with reporting a bill to resolve the issue by the end of November.

Capitol Scene: Child Caring Group Updates Name

The advocacy group formerly known as the Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies has renamed itself the Ohio Children's Alliance, it was announced Friday.

The change, the group said, reflects the changing environment for child and family services.

"Our new name is more representative of our mission and the composition of our statewide network of community agencies," said Mark Mecum, the group's CEO. "Over the past five decades, our association has grown to over 70 community agencies that provide behavioral health, foster care, and other child and family services. We've also evolved into an alliance that fosters collaboration and innovation. Our new name symbolizes our commitment to Ohio's children and the agencies that serve them."

The organization was founded in 1973.

Governor's Appointments

State Dental Board: Tracy Intihar of Columbus to the for a term beginning July 6, 2018, and ending April 6, 2021.

Public Benefits Advisory Board: Dasmine Wright of Columbus for a term beginning July 6, 2018, and ending June 30, 2021.

Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission: Guy C. Coviello of Youngstown for a term beginning July 6, 2018, and ending June 30, 2023.

Ohio Arts Council: Darryl D. Mehaffie of Greenville, Farid Naffah, MD of Cortland, and Neal F. Zimmers, Jr., JD of Granville have been reappointed to the for terms beginning July 6, 2018, and ending July 1, 2023.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, July 10

Radioactive Materials Committee, 35 E. Chestnut St., Basement Training Room A, Columbus, 10:30 a.m.

Friday, July 13

Board of Voting Machine Examiners, 17th Fl., 180 E. Broad St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Monday, July 9


Release of June casino revenue figures, 1:30 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2018, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, July 7-Monday, July 9

Legislative Committees

Monday, July 16

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 3 p.m.

HB 123 **LENDING LAWS** (Koehler, K., Ashford, M.) To modify the Short-Term Loan Act, to specify a minimum duration requirement for loans made under the Small Loan Law and Mortgage Loan Law, and to limit the authority of credit services organizations to broker extensions of credit for buyers. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

Agency Calendar

Monday, July 9

State Board of Education, 25 South Front St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m.
Controlling Board, North Hearing Rm., Senate Bldg., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Monday, July 9

Release of June casino revenue figures, 1:30 a.m.
Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) golf outing fundraiser, Cooks Creek Golf Club, 14065 U.S. Rt. 23, S. Bloomfield, 11 a.m., (11 am registration; 12 pm shotgun)

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

© 2018, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



Legislative Committee Schedules beginning 7/9/2018

Monday, July 9

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 3 p.m.

HB 123 **LENDING LAWS (Koehler, K., Ashford, M.)** To modify the Short-Term Loan Act, to specify a minimum duration requirement for loans made under the Small Loan Law and Mortgage Loan Law, and to limit the authority of credit services organizations to broker extensions of credit for buyers. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

Tuesday, July 10

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

- If needed

HB 123 **LENDING LAWS (Koehler, K., Ashford, M.)** To modify the Short-Term Loan Act, to specify a minimum duration requirement for loans made under the Small Loan Law and Mortgage Loan Law, and to limit the authority of credit services organizations to broker extensions of credit for buyers. (7th Hearing-Possible amendments & vote)

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 10 a.m.

Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 11 a.m.


Thursday, July 12

Ohio Retirement Study Council (Committee Record) (Chr. Schuring, K., 228-1346), Rm. 121, 10 a.m.
Managed Long-Term Services and Supports Study Committee (Chr. Burke, D., 000-0467), Senate Finance Hearing Rm., 10 a.m.

- Providers and consumers of MyCare services will be invited to share their perspectives on MyCare Ohio along with Q & A (100 minutes); Quality Measures Data from Department of Medicaid (20 minutes)

Monday, July 16

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (Committee Record) (Chr. Uecker, J., 644-6030), Senate Finance Hearing Rm., 1:30 p.m.

NOTE: Click bill or resolution number links to see the legislative history compiled by Gongwer News Service. Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill. Click "Full Text" if present to view the text of legislation on the Legislature's Web site.

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

© 2018, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



Event Planner

Monday, July 9

Release of June casino revenue figures, 1:30 a.m.

Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) golf outing fundraiser, Cooks Creek Golf Club, 14065 U.S. Rt. 23, S. Bloomfield, 11 a.m., (11 am registration; 12 pm shotgun)

Tuesday, July 10

Rep. Scott Lipps (R-Franklin) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Host: \$1,000, Sponsor: \$500, Patron: \$350 to Friends of Scott Lipps)

Wednesday, July 11

Rep. Richard Brown (D-Canal Winchester) fundraiser, The Paddock Club, 1005 Richardson Rd., Groveport, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor Levels: Sponsor \$250, Host \$100, Guest \$50 to Citizens for Richard Brown)

Thursday, July 12

Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Crest Gastropub, 621 Parsons Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Host \$500, Friend \$250, Supporter \$150; Guest \$69 to Friends of Hearcel F. Craig)

Monday, July 16

Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) golf outing fundraiser, Mohawk Golf Course, 4399 OH-231, Tiffin, 8:30 a.m., (8:30 am registration; 10 am shotgun)

Tuesday, July 17

Republican Senate Campaign Committee MLB All-Star Game fundraiser, Dock 79, 79 Potomac Ave SE, Washington DC, 5 p.m., (Walk Off: \$5,000 | Grand Slam: \$2,500 | Home Run: \$1,000 to RSCC)

Thursday, July 19

ALEC Annual Meeting, Denver

Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) manicure fundraiser, W Nail Bar, 946 N. High Street, Columbus, 4 p.m., (PAC: \$500 | Individual: \$250 | Young Professional: \$50 to Citizens for Stephanie Kunze. RSVP is required to ensure appointment.)

Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) Batter Up fundraiser, Progressive Field, 2401 Ontario Street, Cleveland, 4 p.m., (4:00pm Warm Up & Batting | 5:30pm Reception. Grand Slam: \$5,000 | Home Run: \$2,500 | Single: \$1,000 | Spectator: \$150 to Friends of Matt Dolan)

Friday, July 20

ALEC Annual Meeting, Denver

Rep. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville) golf outing fundraiser, Mallard Creek Golf Club, 34500 Royalton Road (SR 82), Columbia Station, 10 a.m., (10:00 am Shotgun start; Tournament: \$2,000, Eagle: \$1,000; Foursome: \$600, Birdie:\$5000, Person: \$150 to Friends of Tom Patton)

Saturday, July 21

ALEC Annual Meeting, Denver

Sunday, July 22

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Monday, July 23

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Hidden Creek Golf Club, 6245 Sugar Creek Road, Lima, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration | 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$1,000 | Foursome: \$400 | Tee or Green Sponsor: \$200 | Individual Golfer: \$100 to Huffman for Ohio)

Tuesday, July 24

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Gresso's, 961 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Gold: \$2,000; Silver: \$1,000; Bronze: \$500 to Seitz for Ohio)

Wednesday, July 25

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) golf outing fundraiser, Eagle Rock Golf Club, 211 Carpenter Road, Defiance, 11 a.m., (11:00am Registration and Lunch | 12:00pm Shotgun Start | 5:30pm Cocktail Hour | 6:00pm Dinner with State Rep. Craig Riedel. Event Sponsor: \$2,500 | Tee Sponsor: \$1,000 | Green Sponsor: \$500 | Foursome: \$400 | Dinner Sponsor: \$250 | Individual Golfer: \$100 to Citizens for McColley)

Thursday, July 26

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) golf outing fundraiser, Eagle Rock Golf Club, 211 Carpenter Rd., Defiance, 9:30 a.m., (9:30 Shotgun Start. Event:\$2,500, Tee:\$1,000, Green:\$500, Foursome:\$400, Golfer: \$100 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel)
Rep. Bill Blessing (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Via Vite, 520 Vine St., Cincinnati, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000, Host: \$500, Guest: \$250 to Citizens for Blessing)

Friday, July 27

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Monday, July 30

NCSL Legislative Summit, Los Angeles

Tuesday, July 31

NCSL Legislative Summit, Los Angeles

Deadline to file semi-annual campaign finance reports

Wednesday, August 1

NCSL Legislative Summit, Los Angeles

Rep. Riordan McClain (R-Upper Sandusky) golf outing fundraiser

Thursday, August 2

NCSL Legislative Summit, Los Angeles

Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) Lake Erie fundraiser, Dock's Beach House, 252 W. Lakeshore Drive, Port Clinton, 4 p.m., (Sponsor: \$2,500 | Host: \$1,000 | Guest: \$500 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)

Friday, August 3

Deadline for statewide candidates to file July campaign finance reports

Speaker Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) golf outing fundraiser, Cliffside Golf, 100 Cliffside Drive, Gallipolis, 9 a.m., (Coffee/Registration: 9:00am; Shotgun Start: 10:00am; Event Chair: \$12,707.79; Event host: \$5,000; Event sponsor: \$2,500; Tee Sponsor: \$1,000; Foursome: \$500; Individual Golfer: \$150; Reception only: \$75 to Friends of Ryan Smith)

Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, FOP Hall, 2249 Payne Ave., Cleveland, 5 p.m., (\$200 (table); \$20 (friend) to Friends of Sandra Williams)

Tuesday, August 7

Special election for 12th Congressional District seat

Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) fundraiser, Condado, 132 S. High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Host: \$1,000, Sponsor: \$500, Patron: \$350 to Lanese for Ohio)

Wednesday, August 15

Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) golf outing fundraiser

Thursday, August 16

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) golf outing fundraiser

Friday, August 17

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) Fly Fishing fundraiser

Monday, August 20

Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) golf outing fundraiser, Pinnacle Golf Club, 1500 Pinnacle Golf Club Dr., Grove City, 10 a.m., (10:00 am Registration, 11:00 am Shotgun start, Dinner to follow; Event:\$1,500, Food and Beverage: \$700, Golfer: \$150; Hole: \$100 to Lanese for Ohio)

Thursday, August 23

Hamilton County GOP State Legislative golf outing fundraiser

Monday, August 27

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) golf outing fundraiser, Denison Golf Club, 555 Newark Granville Rd., Granville, 9 a.m., (9:00 am Registration, 10:00 am Shotgun Start. Event: \$2500; Food and Beverage: \$1000; Tee: \$750; Foursome: \$500; Golfer: \$125; Green: \$100 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)

Saturday, September 1

Lobbyists/Employers can begin filing May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports

Thursday, September 6

**Deadline for statewide candidates to file August campaign finance reports
Rep. Rick Carfagna (R-Westerville) golf outing fundraiser**

Friday, September 14

Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) golf outing fundraiser, Springdale Golf Course, 5871 Canterbury Road, North Olmstead, 9 a.m., (9:00 am Shotgun Start, Lunch at the Turn, Dinner to follow; Dinner Sponsor: \$1,500, Lunch Sponsor: \$1,000, Drink Sponsor: \$750, Hole Sponsor: \$100; Foursome: \$500, Single Golfer: \$125, Dinner only: \$60 to Friends of Dave Greenspan)

Thursday, September 27

Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) shotgun fundraiser

Friday, September 28

**Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) golf outing fundraiser
Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) Day at the Races fundraiser**

Monday, October 1

JLEC Deadline for filing May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Report

Wednesday, October 3

Deadline for statewide candidates to file September campaign finance reports

Thursday, October 25

Deadline to file pre-general campaign finance reports

Tuesday, November 6

General election day

Thursday, November 8

2018 Impact Ohio Post Election Conference, Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St., Columbus

Saturday, December 1

Lobbyists can begin renewing Legislative, Executive and Retirement System registrations for 2019

Friday, December 14

Deadline to file post-general campaign finance reports

Monday, December 31

All 2018 Legislative, Executive and Retirement System lobbying registrations expire in OLAC

Thursday, January 31

Deadline to 2018 annual campaign finance reports

Deadline to 2018 annual campaign finance reports

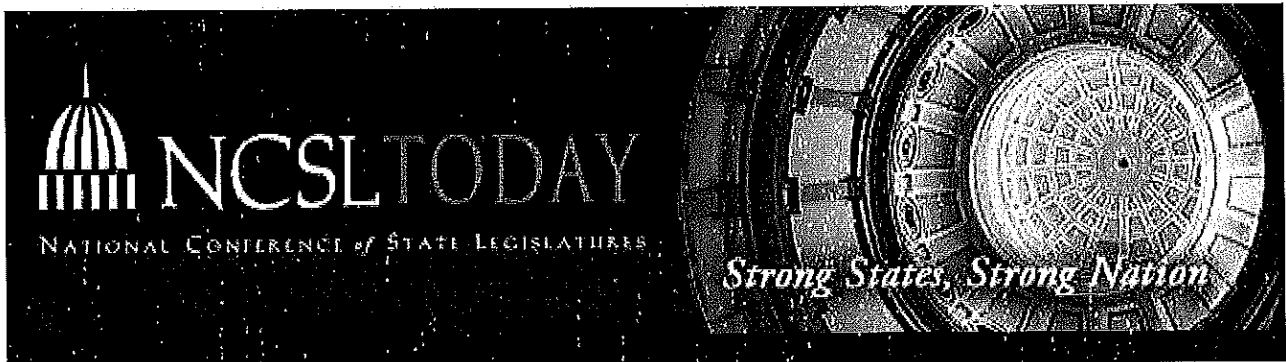
**17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com**

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

© 2018, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.

From: NCSL TODAY
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 11:48 AM
To: Sarko, Alyssa
Subject: Why 'orphan' oil and gas wells are a growing problem for states

NCSL Today | Manage your subscription



TOP NEWS July 9, 2018

Why 'orphan' oil and gas wells are a growing problem for states

Stateline

Unplugged wells can leak explosive gas into neighborhoods and leach toxins into groundwater.

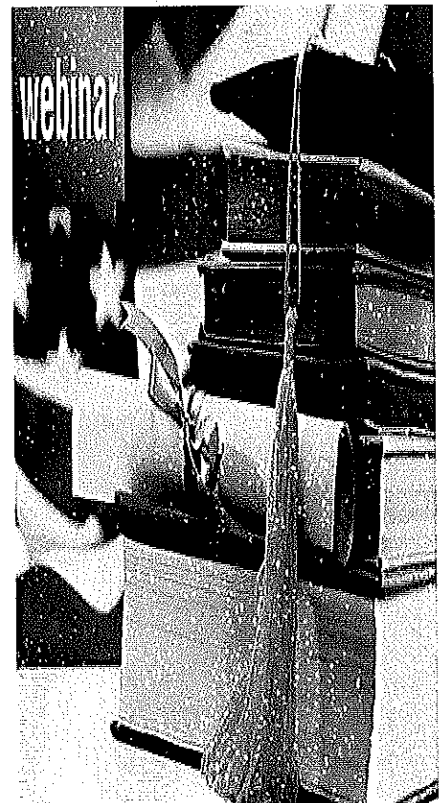
At state level, GOP renews push for 'supermajority' for tax hikes

The Washington Post

Florida Republicans are pursuing a plan to make it harder for lawmakers to raise taxes in the state, adding new hurdles for Democrats hoping to enact bold social programs such as "Medicare for all" and more robust education spending. **NCSL research cited.**

Insurers warn of rising premiums after Trump axes Obamacare payments again

Reuters



Health insurers warned that a move by the Trump administration on Saturday to temporarily suspend a program that was set to pay out \$10.4 billion to insurers for covering high-risk individuals last year could drive up premium costs and create marketplace uncertainty. [NCSL resources on health insurances premiums and increases.](#)

North Dakota measure would ban noncitizen voting

Associated Press

Backers of a measure to change the North Dakota Constitution to explicitly bar non-U.S. citizens from voting say they have gathered enough signatures to get it on the November ballot. **NCSL research cited.**

Delaware lawmakers approve bill to prohibit pharmacist 'gag clauses'

Delaware Public Media

Pharmacy Benefits Managers (PBMs), third-party administrators of prescription drug programs for health insurance plans, sometimes forbid pharmacists from telling customers about cheaper therapeutic alternatives, or disclosing when a drug might be cheaper when paid for out-of-pocket, rather than through insurance. = A **NCSL data cited.** [NCSL resources on 'gag clauses'.](#)

Janus ruling is a blow to public unions - especially bad for black women

Governing

The Supreme Court's decision could weaken unions'

Webinar Wednesday: Revitalizing civics education in U.S. schools

This webinar will explore the general state of civics knowledge and education in the United State and highlight some of the work state legislators are undertaking to address the civics education and engagement in their states.



FY 2019 state budget status

Hear from thought leaders at the forefront of top issues at the Legislative Summit

Connect with the new NCSL Events mobile app

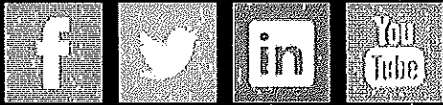


Dig deep into Supreme Court's term with this free webinar series

Check out this series of webinars organized by the State and Local Legal Center and hosted by NCSL and other organizations. All of the webinars are FREE and intended for

collective bargaining power, which has historically benefited women of color more than most.

a non-attorney and attorney audiences.



© National Conference of State Legislatures
Denver: 303-364-7700
Washington: 202-624-5400

Click [here](#) to unsubscribe

7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

From: Flasher, Kim
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2018 3:19 PM
To: House_All
Subject: Legislative Conferences and Travel
Attachments: Travel Request Form.docx

Memo to: All House Members

From: Speaker Ryan Smith

Date: July 13, 2018

Re: Legislative Conferences Annual Meetings

As you may know, the Ohio General Assembly pays dues to several National Legislative Conferences such as NCSL, CSG, and ALEC. As these organizations begin holding their annual meetings, several of you may be interested in attending.

In the past, the House has allowed a limited number of Members to attend with a set expenditure reimbursement from the State permitted. This year, the House will approve any Member who would like to attend ONE national meeting and will cover the conference registration fees. The Member is liable for all remaining expenses. Such expenses may be covered through personal or campaign funds.

It is advised that you consult with your caucus Legal Counsel before utilizing campaign funds toward any travel.

If you would like to register for one of the annual meetings, please complete the attached "Request for Travel Form" and return it to Kim Flasher in the Administrative Office.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Kim. Thank you.



TRAVEL REQUEST FORM

Traveler _____ Today's Date _____

*I have attached a copy of the conference Itinerary and associated registration fees
for review.*

Conference _____

Conference

Location _____

—

Date Conference Begins _____ Date Conference Ends _____

Request to travel approved:
by:

Expenses to be reimbursed

Representatives
Kim Flasher, Chief Administrative Officer

House of

Service Commission
Date

Legislative

From: Ingram, Catherine
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2018 4:31 PM
To: Flasher, Kim; House_All
Subject: Re: Legislative Conferences and Travel

Is this message in regard to only the annual meeting or does it also refer to any other event sponsored by said organizations?

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

----- Original message -----

From: "Flasher, Kim" <Kim.Flasher@ohiohouse.gov>
Date: 7/13/18 3:18 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: House_All <House_All@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Legislative Conferences and Travel

Memo to: All House Members

From: Speaker Ryan Smith

Date: July 13, 2018

Re: Legislative Conferences Annual Meetings

As you may know, the Ohio General Assembly pays dues to several National Legislative Conferences such as NCSL, CSG, and ALEC. As these organizations begin holding their annual meetings, several of you may be interested in attending.

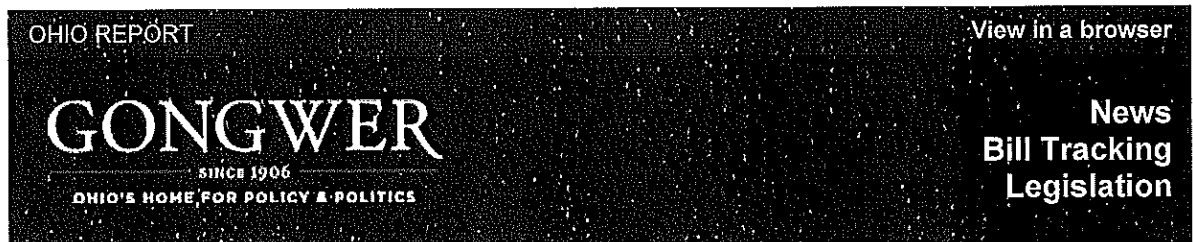
In the past, the House has allowed a limited number of Members to attend with a set expenditure reimbursement from the State permitted. This year, the House will approve any Member who would like to attend ONE national meeting and will cover the conference registration fees. The Member is liable for all remaining expenses. Such expenses may be covered through personal or campaign funds.

It is advised that you consult with your caucus Legal Counsel before utilizing campaign funds toward any travel.

If you would like to register for one of the annual meetings, please complete the attached "Request for Travel Form" and return it to Kim Flasher in the Administrative Office.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Kim. Thank you.

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2018 6:19 PM
To: Sarko, Alyssa
Subject: Ohio Report, Friday, July 13, 2018
Attachments: Jul13.htm; 180713dayplan.htm; 180713plan.htm



OHIO REPORT

FRIDAY, JULY 13

Lake Erie Lawmakers, Stakeholders Continue Digesting Kasich Executive Order

Sponsor Backs Senate Changes To Lending Bill With House Approval Pending

Employers, Workers And Retirees Warn Of Economic Consequences Of Inaction On Pension Crisis

Implementation Of Overall Grades For Career-Tech Schools Delayed

FirstEnergy, Opponents Spar Over Whether Rider Grants Modernization 'Incentive' Or 'Blank Check'

Agency Briefs: AG Sets Aside \$25M To Support Child Victims; IG; ODNR; OPERS; BWC; ODA; Pharmacy Board

Attorneys Disciplined; Grain Handler Pleads Guilty; Hundreds Of Paralegals Certified

Delegation Split Over Supreme Court Pick; Fudge Introduces Bill To Aid Farmers' Heirs; House Approves Gold Medal Honor For Indians Legend ...

Supplemental Event Planner

CALENDARS

~~~~~

## Event Planner

[unsubscribe](#)



**Volume #87, Report #135 -- Friday, July 13, 2018**

## **Lake Erie Lawmakers, Stakeholders Continue Digesting Kasich Executive Order**

Reaction is mixed among lawmakers and stakeholder groups to Gov. John Kasich's executive order this week aimed at curbing farm runoff fueling harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie.

Since the order was signed Wednesday, lake advocates have continued to praise the move that kick starts a rules process requiring farmers in certain watersheds to enact nutrient management plans or face civil penalties. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 11, 2018)

And agricultural groups, such as the Ohio Livestock Coalition and the Ohio Farmers Union, continue to express their concerns and frustration with the administration's plan and how it was crafted.

Lawmakers in interviews were somewhat divided on the issue, with some praising its intent but questioning whether a legislative approach would have been a better course of action.

"I almost always believe the best approach is to get the important stakeholders in the room," Sen. Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green) said. "I'm not aware that consensus building effort was made with the executive order."

Sen. Gardner and Sen. Sean O'Brien (D-Bazetta) are lead sponsors of legislation (SB 299) signed by Gov. Kasich this week that directs new funding to combat blooms. The governor is eyeing some of that funding to support enacting his recent order.

Sen. Gardner said the sponsors wanted to avoid the legislation painting all watersheds with the same "broad brush." The order covers all or part of eight watersheds which are to be designated as "in distress."

"It appears if our math is accurate (the governor's order) does close to 50% of the western Lake Erie basin," Sen. Gardner said. "We thought there would be a more targeted approach, to focus on a tighter number of acres."

Sen. O'Brien said that although he'd prefer legislative rather than executive action, recent events in the General Assembly - specifically the absence of a House speaker for several weeks - meant the prospect of passing a legislative approach was an uncertainty over much of the spring.

"I think it was a good move. I think he did it right," Sen. O'Brien said. "I don't think he went too far overreaching so I'm pleased to see that.... We want to make sure we're not harming the farmers and our agriculture friends, but at the same time we've got to protect the resource."

Rep. Steven Arndt (R-Port Clinton), who cosponsored a House companion bill with Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson), said he was comfortable with the governor's move.

"We recognize he has that responsibility, quite frankly," Rep. Arndt said. "It's certainly not the legislature's (job) to go out and do assessments in different watersheds. That is clearly something underneath the administration's purview...but depending on where they go in the rulemaking process...it's going to be hard to determine whether they're spot on or whether it will make a difference."

Rep. Michael Sheehy (D-Oregon) also weighed in, saying in a statement the order is "another modest attempt at improving the quality of water in the Western Basin of Lake Erie."

Stakeholder groups too are continuing to dissect the ramifications of the order. Joel Brammeier, CEO of the Alliance for the Great Lakes, called it "an important step in the right direction."

"These harmful algal blooms undermine Ohio's economy and threaten the drinking water source for millions of people," he said. "The executive order..., combined with the state's recent designation of western Lake Erie as 'impaired' under the Clean Water Act, establishes a framework for progress on cleaning up Lake Erie."

And agricultural groups remain concerned, expressing continued frustration after they say they were cut out of the discussion as the administration formulated the order.

"Members...are deeply disappointed," said Scott Higgins, executive director of the Ohio Livestock Coalition. "With this executive order, 'the devil is in the details,' and we will need time to fully review and understand the implications of this directive and then to determine our next steps."

Ohio Farmers Union President Joe Logan said, "Gov. Kasich's executive order may be well-intended, but it also seems to be a very tentative action that shifts the initiative to a broad, complex network of state agencies and commissions. Should those agencies and commissions decide to take aggressive action, the implications for farmers and for Lake Erie's water quality could be profound."

The Ohio Manufacturers' Association, in an analysis sent to members, said concerns the order would include a statewide phosphorus discharge limit for industrial dischargers failed to materialize.

"There is still a concern that commercial fertilizer manufacturers will be negatively impacted depending on what the nutrient management plans look like when they are established," the OMA wrote.

The ongoing debate comes as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Thursday issued its forecast for the coming algal bloom season.

The NOAA's final seasonal forecast predicted significant blooms this year but at levels below those experienced in 2017. The bloom is expected to measure a 6 on the 10-point severity scale compared to an 8 last year. For perspective, the largest blooms were seen in 2011 (10) and 2015 (10.5).

New satellite data is also expected to result in more accurate predictions and tracking this year, researchers said.

"While continued efforts are still needed to reduce nutrient runoff and therefore the size of future HABs, Lake Erie residents and visitors will still be able to safely enjoy much of the lake during bloom season," said Christopher Winslow, director of the Ohio Sea Grant College Program.

The Ohio Environmental Council, which has praised Gov. Kasich's move, said a multi-faceted approach is needed to tackle this issue.

"Solving this problem will require voluntary programs, funding, and common sense regulation for agricultural producers," Water Resources Director Peter Bucher said. "Voluntary programs are in place and the state just recently passed (SB299) to fund agricultural best management practices. The state now must build off of Gov. Kasich's executive order that put eight watersheds in distress to build a conservation program for the entire Lake Erie watershed."

### **Sponsor Backs Senate Changes To Lending Bill With House Approval Pending**

The Senate's passage Tuesday of legislation to rein in short-term lenders puts the often-contentious measure before the House, which must consider the other chamber's changes.

Whether the House will take up the issue (HB 123) before November's election, potentially at a September session, is still being considered by Speaker Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell).

"The speaker is reviewing the legislation passed by the Senate and discussing next steps with the bill's sponsors and the caucus to determine how to proceed," Smith spokeswoman Carolyn Best said.

Rep. Kyle Koehler (R-Springfield), one of the measure's sponsors, said he hopes the chamber concurs with the Senate changes soon. In the 16 months since he and Rep.

Mike Ashford (D-Toledo) introduced it, Rep. Koehler said three of his children have gotten married.

"It's been a long road," he said in an interview.

Rep. Koehler said he supports the work done in the Senate by Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton) to make changes to it. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 10, 2018)

"Instead of completely abandoning it, they took what we had as a structure and really just brought small changes to many different areas," he said.

The Senate's changes covered a wide variety of aspects of the legislation, and Rep. Koehler said he was concerned about confusion around one Senate change. The new version limits loans for less than 90 days to cases in which a payment wouldn't exceed 6% of the borrower's monthly gross income. Loans beyond 90 days are not limited in such a way.

Rep. Koehler said he was worried some would see the change as limiting access to credit for people who don't have certain incomes, often high ones, based on the size and duration of the loan.

"Anybody can get a \$500 loan, it just might mean the paper you sign doesn't require you to pay it all off in less than 90 days," he said.

The change was designed to reduce "churning" in loans, in which a borrower takes out a loan for a month or so that they can't repay in that timeframe, and then they must take out another loan to pay it off, and so on, he said.

"That happens because too much money is demanded right away," he said.

The sponsor said he believes the Senate's solution is a "middle of the road" approach to help lenders stay in business while protecting consumers.

"If we pass a law that works, there might be some individuals that leave because it's not lucrative anymore, they're not making money hand over fist," he said. "The ones that stay are the ones that are treating their customers well, that are bringing in what most people consider are reasonable profits."

The version passed by the Senate was significantly different from an initial proposal brought by Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) that would have made major changes to the structure of the measure.

Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said Tuesday that Sen. Huffman was given a "very difficult task" in looking at the issue but he didn't think the Senate was ever set on that proposal.



"I think overall we ended in a different place, but one that I think still gives a little bit more breathing room for making sure that credit is available for people who need it," he said.

Sen. Huffman ended up voting against the measure, saying on the Senate floor that it would go too far in pushing lenders out of the industry.

"These are willing borrowers borrowing money from lenders, but this bill prohibits the borrower who is most often in this situation from taking out the loan that they most often want to do," he said.

### **Employers, Workers And Retirees Warn Of Economic Consequences Of Inaction On Pension Crisis**

Testifying before the House and Senate Joint Select Committee on Pensions during a field hearing at the Statehouse, Bill Martin, president of the Spangler Candy Company in Bryan, said the pension crisis has put his company founded in 1906 in jeopardy.

He said in an opening statement that in the past 10 years, the employer contributions to the Central States Pension Plan has nearly doubled.

"For someone to say employers aren't paying their share is just sadly mistaken and uninformed," he said. "No other cost we have has increased 85% in the past 10 years like our pension costs. The real sad truth is our Teamster employees will only receive a fraction of their promised retirement benefit because Central States Pension Plan is going to fail."

David Gardner, CEO of Alfred Nickles Bakery in Navarre, said the past nine years, his company's pension costs have increased by \$5.7 million annually. He urged lawmakers to develop a plan to benefit both retirees and those companies who contribute to pension plans.

He offered four suggestions, including freezing all multi-employer pension plans with a certain level of underfunding and allowing companies to withdraw from multi-employer pension funds without liability.

Mike Walden, president of the National United Committee to Protect Pensions and a retiree of Teamsters Local 24, warned of a coming "tsunami."

"And if you don't believe in the contagion effect you probably should not be on this committee," he said in his opening statement.

Mr. Walden also continued his advocacy for legislation introduced by the panel's co-chair, U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland). (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 12, 2018)

"All in all, the bottom line is something needs to be done now, not later, to save the funds, the people and the economy," he said. "Billions are being lost every day the longer we wait."

Larry Ward, a retiree of the United Mine Workers of America, warned that any cuts to pension benefits will make life difficult for many retirees living on a fixed income. He also said the 5,616 pensioners in Ohio who receive funds from the UMNA 1974 plan live in areas that are already economically depressed.

"Along with the money that goes to pay for retiree health care, our pensions are key parts of the economies where we live," he said. "The impact of cuts would be devastating to those areas, which are already hard-hit by declining coal mining and other industries, like steel and aluminum manufacturing."

If the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation takes over the plan, he said, it will be cut by about 90%, resulting in \$500 million per year being pulled out of the economy in struggling areas.

Brian Sloan, apprentice instructor at Millwright Local 1090 in Dayton, said doing nothing will result in a higher cost to the taxpayers.

"Allowing these plans to go under will take tax paying retirees and turn them into tax burdens," he said. "Without these pensions, our members will have no other choice but to seek help through government subsidies. This is not to mention the taxes lost by the goods and services that our members would purchase, but would not be able to should these plans fail."

During the opening round of questioning, Sen. Brown questioned each of the witnesses on what inaction would mean for them.

"It just continues the uncertainty, this black cloud that we've experienced for a long time now," Mr. Martin said, adding 550 jobs are on the line at his company.

U.S. Rep. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) asked if it is difficult to attract employees to jobs in trades with struggling pension plans.

Mr. Sloan said it makes for a difficult decision for many.

Mr. Portman said the issue is one that needs to be explained to the public so that they understand it will have a larger impact than just on those unionized retirees that will directly lose money.

U.S. Rep. Richard Neal (D-Mass.) questioned Mr. Martin about the "last man standing rule."

Mr. Martin said that if there are no employers besides him to cover benefits, the onus would fall on his company.

"We can't shoulder that burden," he said.

U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) asked the panel if they believe the federal government has a responsibility to come up with a solution.

"That's the solution we are absolutely looking for," Mr. Sloan responded.

Answering a question from U.S. Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.) about borrowing during the pension crisis, Mr. Gardner said it has become more costly due to the known unfunded liabilities.

About 60,000 Ohio retirees could be impacted by the crisis.

The Central States Teamsters Pension Plan, the United Mine Workers Pension Plan, the Ironworkers Local 17 Pension Plan, the Ohio Southwest Carpenters Pension Plan and the Bakers and Confectioners Pension Plan are all at risk of failure.

### **Implementation Of Overall Grades For Career-Tech Schools Delayed**

While overall letter grades for school districts are set to make their debut on state report cards in September, career and technical education providers will have to wait a while longer for their own composite scores.

The State Board of Education earlier this week approved a resolution delaying the assignment of overall grades for career-tech schools for the second time in three years. The composite grades initially were set to debut in 2015, but the board that year extended the deadline to 2018 in an effort to align their introduction with that of overall scores for school districts.

The latest resolution delays implementation for an additional year to allow the board to continue to seek additional input from stakeholders.

"At this time, there's been a lot of discussion from the associations, the stakeholders and the community, as well as among committee members" Board Vice President Nancy Hollister said at the meeting.

The full board expects to hear recommendations for the career-tech report card stemming from discussions between members and interested parties in October, she said.

In a proposal considered by the board in the spring, scores for achievement and post-program outcomes each would have accounted for 30% of the overall career-tech grade, while marks in categories known as graduation rate and prepared for success each would have accounted for 20%. Officials at tech-schools relayed concerns about the fairness of the proposed composite grade and the existing report card at the time. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 9, 2018)

Among the concerns of officials was the use of scores from tests taken at students' home schools to determine a portion of career-tech education providers' achievement grades. Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) previously said he was willing to work on legislation to prevent that from occurring in the future.

Christine Gardner, executive director of the Ohio Association for Career and Technical Education, said her group's members are appreciative of the chance to provide additional input on the report card.

"We're happy to be part of the discussion," she said in an interview. "A lot of times career-tech is left out of these conversations."

Ms. Gardner said state officials in the past occasionally have attempted to apply rules and standards for local school districts directly onto career and technical education providers without giving much thought to the differences between the two types of entities. She said her group's members welcome accountability measures, but want to make sure they accurately reflect the work going on inside their buildings.

The delay in the implementation of the overall grade for career-tech schools coincides with a larger, ongoing debate about the state's report cards.

The State Board of Education earlier this week reviewed the initial recommendations of a working group tasked with suggesting changes to the system and heard feedback from Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington), who is sponsoring a measure (HB 591) aimed at achieving a major overhaul of the existing report card. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 10, 2018)

### **FirstEnergy, Opponents Spar Over Whether Rider Grants Modernization 'Incentive' Or 'Blank Check'**

Opponents are pushing back against FirstEnergy's claim that a contested distribution modernization rider will "jumpstart" the company's grid modernization efforts.

In recent reply briefs filed with the Ohio Supreme Court, environmental groups and other stakeholders continued to rail against the \$132.5 million a year rider approved by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio in 2016. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 12, 2016)

The Ohio Manufacturers' Association Energy Group and the Sierra Club appealed the ruling in October 2017, with the Ohio Consumers' Counsel and several allies following suit in a separate case the following month. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, November 30, 2017) Briefings in both cases have since been consolidated. (Court Docket)

FirstEnergy and its subsidiaries have argued the commission had broad latitude to take such a step and pushed back on claims the rider amounts to an unlawful transition charge or a "bailout" as opponents have suggested.

"Rider DMR does not provide 'financial integrity' to generation assets transitioning to market," the companies wrote. "There is no means by which the companies could directly transfer any funds to (FirstEnergy Solutions)."

The fact that FES declared bankruptcy in April is an "obvious rebuttal to appellants' claims of a secret flow of rider DMR dollars to support FES' generation assets," the companies argued. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 2, 2018)

Parties fighting the rider disagree.

"The DMR is nothing but a thinly veiled effort to require the companies' captive customers to bolster the bottom line of the FirstEnergy corporate family through hundreds of millions of dollars of unrestricted funds," the Sierra Club wrote.

Other appellants expressed similar sentiments in their arguments.

"Simply stated, the distribution modernization rider is an illegal, customer-funded corporate bailout masquerading...whereby Ohioans will be forced to pay the regulated utilities hundreds of millions of dollars and do so without any meaningful protections to ensure that customer funds are actually used to modernize distribution infrastructure and not to subsidize the regulated utilities' parent, FirstEnergy Corp.," the OMA Energy Group wrote.

Ohio Consumers' Counsel and the Northwest Ohio Aggregation Coalition - a group of municipalities including Toledo, Perrysburg, Maumee and others - opined that the PUCO "violated the law again and again" in its order.

"FirstEnergy's customers were denied the protection of the law: protection from paying electricity rates that are too high; protection against paying excessive profits to the utilities; and protection from paying FirstEnergy any more than \$6.9 billion to transition to the competitive market," the parties wrote.

And conservation groups, including the Ohio Environmental Council, the Environmental Defense Fund and the Environmental Law and Policy Center, said that even FirstEnergy has agreed there is no language in the PUCO's order requiring DMR revenues to be invested in modernization.

"The appellees' attempt to paint rider DMR as a 'distribution modernization incentive'...falters," the groups said. "In its view, because giving a blank check to FirstEnergy may allow it to borrow at a lower rate, rider DMR 'stimulates' FirstEnergy to 'jumpstart' a modernization program. It is immaterial to the appellees that FirstEnergy can take that blank check without any obligation to seek capital or actually modernize the grid."

**Agency Briefs: AG Sets Aside \$25M To Support Child Victims; IG; ODNR; OPERS; BWC; ODA; Pharmacy Board**

Attorney General Mike DeWine announced an effort Wednesday to support programs that help children who are victims of crime.

The initiative will set aside at least \$25 million in federal Victims of Crime Act funding for children's programs, and the AG's office called on groups around the state to submit ideas.

"It is critical that crime victims have access to comprehensive care and services, and that includes services for our youngest, most vulnerable victims," AG DeWine said in a statement. "We want to help ensure that kids who experience trauma receive the care they need."

The AG's office is looking for ways to provide services to victims of physical or sexual abuse, address mental health issues in children who have experienced trauma, provide trauma-informed care training to schools, help children of families facing substance abuse, research the effects of adverse childhood experiences and locate safe living environments for children.

The state received \$117 million in VOCA grants for the fiscal year, an increase of more than \$30 million from the year before.

**Inspector General:** Randall Meyer reported a former employee of the Department of Developmental Disabilities posted fraudulent hours for another employee and diverted money to her personal bank account.

Tiffany Diggs, a human management capital analyst, was accused of tampering with another employee's timekeeping records for 17 pay periods and diverting \$38,515.44 to her personal bank account for hours she didn't work. She was indicted by a Franklin County grand jury this week on charges of theft in office, tampering with records and filing a false or fraudulent tax return.

She resigned from DODD in April, the report said.

**Natural Resources:** The department reported that the state's horizontal shale wells produced 3.9 million barrels of oil and 531 billion cubic feet of natural gas in the first quarter of the year.

Natural gas production was up 42.85% compared to the first quarter of 2017, while oil production was down 3.62% year-over-year.

The report found 1,909 of the 1,949 wells in the state reported oil and natural gas production during the quarter. The average well produced 2,066 barrels of oil and 278.5 million cubic feet of natural gas.

The department also announced a number of changes to wildlife regulations proposed this week by the Ohio Wildlife Council. The proposals include the creation of a year-

round season for black bass in the Lake Erie sport fishing district, changes to crappie limits at certain lakes and reservoirs, and new counties for open river otter trapping.

The ODNR also said Bay Point Marina in Marblehead earned the state's first platinum Ohio Clean Marina certification, the highest available in the state. The marina is the first to participate in the new tiered certification structure through a partnership between the department and the Ohio Sea Grant.

**Public Employees Retirement System:** The state's largest pension plan issued its 2017 comprehensive annual financial report, which looks at financial, actuarial and investment measures for the year.

The system reported a net position of \$101.4 billion at the end of the year, the first time it has broken \$100 billion. Its funded status was 81%, with a funding period within 18 years.

The fund reported health care expenses totaled \$1 billion for the year.

Its defined benefit investment portfolio saw returns of 16.82% for the year, while the health care portfolio returned 15.25%, OPERS reported. Member and employee contributions totaled \$3.4 billion, while net income from investments was \$14.6 billion.

**Workers' Compensation:** The bureau reported seven people were convicted in June on workers' compensation fraud charges.

The group includes an injured worker who was working in Colorado while collecting BWC disability benefits. The other six convicted were employers, with three of them accounting for most of the total \$269,000 restitution owed by those convicted in June.

"If these employers had just played by the rules and reached out to us for help when they were struggling, we could have had a better outcome for all involved," Jim Wernecke, director of BWC's special investigations department, said in a statement. "Instead, they went in a different direction and now they have a criminal record in addition to their unpaid BWC premiums."

**Agriculture:** The department is offering free consultations to help farmers comply with the Food and Drug Administration's upcoming produce safety rule under the Food Safety Modernization Act.

The Division of Food Safety will begin farm inspections next spring, but staff are offering voluntary visits to help growers take steps to comply before they begin.

**Pharmacy Board:** The board announced that nurse practitioner Douglas Shrewsbury was indicted on 11 counts of aggravated trafficking in drugs and nine counts of aggravated possession of drugs after an investigation into claims he was operating a pain clinic in Springfield without a license and illegally issuing prescriptions for controlled substances.

Search warrants were conducted at his office and home in Springfield in November, the pharmacy board said.

### **Attorneys Disciplined; Grain Handler Pleads Guilty; Hundreds Of Paralegals Certified**

The Ohio Supreme Court this week was busy disciplining attorneys found to have violated professional conduct rules.

In a 6-0 per curiam decision, a Zanesville attorney was suspended for two years, with one year stayed, after he was caught on a courthouse security camera engaging in sexual activity with a client.

Brian W. Benbow also lied about the encounter, the high court's media arm reported.

"Because Benbow not only engaged in an inappropriate sexual relationship with a client, but also engaged in a course of dishonest conduct involving multiple false denials and lies under oath, we agree that a two-year suspension, with the second year stayed on the conditions recommended by the board, is the appropriate sanction for this case," the court wrote in its decision.

In another unanimous per curiam decision the court agreed with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel in deciding that attorney Guy Rutherford should no longer practice law.

Among the rules violations committed by Mr. Rutherford, who has faced several suspensions over the years, were that he failed to file a promised appeal of a client's criminal conviction, the court reported.

The court also determined that he failed to cooperate with the disciplinary investigation.

"Given the nature of Rutherford's misconduct, the extensive aggravating factors present - including his prior discipline for similar acts, the complete absence of mitigation factors, and the sanctions we have imposed for comparable misconduct, we agree that permanent disbarment is warranted," the court wrote in its decision.

In a final 6-0 per curiam opinion, the court handed down a six-month stayed suspension to C. Ralph Wilcoxson II of Vandalia related to disputed representation of a client, the court reported.

Justice Mary DeGenaro did not participate in any of the decisions.

**Grain Handler:** A northern Ohio grain handler is on the hook for more than \$3 million after he pleaded guilty to several felony charges related to theft from 35 farmers.



As part of a plea agreement, Richard Schwan, 79, Monroeville, must pay \$3.2 million in restitution after he was found to have sold grain for farmers in five counties but failed to pay their share of the profits.

"Ohio's farmers work hard to produce their crops, and this defendant callously took the profits of their labor," Attorney General Mike DeWine said in a statement. "Our priority in this case has always been to recover the money that rightfully belonged to these farmers, and a condition of this plea agreement requires the defendant to promptly repay the money he stole."

AG DeWine also announced that a Bucyrus man has been convicted of 19 charges related to death threats against law enforcement officials.

Matthew Kunzer, 34, was found guilty of 10 felony counts of intimidation, five felony counts of retaliation, three misdemeanor counts of aggravated menacing and one misdemeanor count of resisting arrest.

"We take all threats against law enforcement seriously, and we believe this defendant had full intent to act on these threats," he said. "We will vigorously prosecute anyone who puts the lives of law enforcement and judges at risk."

**Paralegals Certified:** The Ohio State Bar Association announced the certification of 231 paralegals from across the state.

"Paralegals are critical to the success of our justice system and this program is incredibly helpful for attorneys and law firms seeking highly qualified professionals to join their practice," President Robin Weaver said in a statement.

### **Health Insurance Exchange Enrollment Drops Slightly; ODM Releases MyCare Evaluation...**

Total enrollment in health care plans through the Affordable Care Act exchange in Ohio was 204,589 in February, marking a slight decline from the previous February's total of 207,039, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services reported.

CMS issued a series of reports looking at enrollment trends, including changes in enrollment among those receiving subsidies and those not receiving subsidies.

In Ohio, the number of people enrolled in exchange plans who received subsidies dropped by 12% from 2016-2017, a smaller decrease than in most states for which CMS reports data, the agency reported.

Ohio's average total premium for the month for exchange plans was \$504.55 in February, and \$386.81 for individuals receiving subsidies, CMS reported.

**MyCare Evaluation:** The Department of Medicaid released its annual evaluation of the MyCare Ohio program, which officials touched on Thursday in a presentation to stakeholders. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 12, 2018)

The report identifies about \$30 million in annual savings compared to what would be expected in traditional Medicaid fee-for-service.

It also documents members' satisfaction with care coordination. In a survey, 70% of members who chose to have their MyCare plan coordinated Medicare benefits alongside Medicaid benefits reported a high level of trust and satisfaction, while 93% of MyCare members reported satisfaction with their relationship with their care manager.

Ohio Medicaid is also more able to monitor timely payments to providers and address issues as they arise, the report said.

**Suicide Prevention:** The National Alliance on Mental Illness Ohio and the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation highlighted resources available to veterans, saying the risk for suicide is 22% higher among veterans than the general adult population.

The OSPF said it has collaborated with the Ohio Army Reserve National Guard to promote free online suicide prevention trainings to educate veterans and family members on how to be "gatekeepers," be prepared to recognize warning signs and have conversations with veterans they are concerned about. Those online trainings are available on the foundation's website for anyone to use.

Other resources the foundation has available include a male wellness campaign called "Man Therapy" that features an interactive website and materials specifically targeting veterans. The foundation said this program is designed to reduce stigma around mental health among veterans.

The foundation also offers training for providers to ensure they can address suicidality in patients, including two services on assessing and managing suicide risk and the collaborative assessment and management of suicidality.

NAMI Ohio has also convened a council of veterans, service members and families along with veterans service providers.

**Delegation Split Over Supreme Court Pick; Fudge Introduces Bill To Aid Farmers' Heirs; House Approves Gold Medal Honor For Indians Legend ...**

Ohio's congressional Republicans praised President Donald Trump's nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to succeed retiring U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy this week, while Democrats raised concerns about his views on economic and social issues.

U.S. Rep. Bill Johnson (R-Marietta) said in a statement he thinks the nominee "will be a strong defender of the Constitution" and requested quick action by the Senate to review and approve the nomination.

"The Supreme Court is no place for Justices who want to rewrite the Constitution to bend to their own political or ideological whims," he said.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) said earlier this week he looks forward to meeting with the judge and considering his nomination, while U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) said he has "serious concerns" about Judge Kavanaugh's record of rulings on issues involving women's and consumers' rights. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 10, 2018)

U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Niles) said the Senate should delay any vote on the nominee until after November's midterm elections, adding that his confirmation would lead to negative consequences for the nation.

"Brett Kavanaugh's nomination has reinforced what we already knew: President Trump wants a Supreme Court willing to fight for corporations' rights as a 'person,' but not for the rights of workers to collectively bargain and earn a living wage," he said. "He wants a court that will fight to uphold Citizens United and allow unlimited money in our political system, but not for a loving same-sex couple to join together in marriage. And especially so this time, he wants a court that will toss aside established precedent and take away a women's right to her own healthcare and reproductive decisions."

**Heirs:** U.S. Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-Cleveland) has introduced a measure aimed at allowing landowners' descendants to access U.S. Department of Agriculture resources in cases where the landowner died without leaving a will.

Rep. Fudge said the legislation is intended to help multiple heirs who become tenants in common when a relative dies, which can create title issues that can restrict access to federal aid.

"The Fair Access for Farmers and Ranchers Act connects producers to available resources they need to maintain and develop their property," she said. "This Act will go a long way in helping our most vulnerable families fulfill their vision for land preservation and development."

The legislation has earned the support of the Rural Coalition and the Uniform Laws Commission, according to a news release from the Congresswoman's office.

"The Fair Access for Farmers and Ranchers Act allows heirs' property owners to access federally backed loans to clear their title and put their land into productive use - a win for all concerned," Anita Ramasastry, president of the Uniform Laws Commission, said.

U.S. Sen. Doug Jones (D-Ala.) and U.S. Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.) have introduced the same legislation in the upper chamber.

**Baseball:** Representatives from both sides of the aisle praised the U.S. House's decision this week to pass a resolution to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Larry Doby, the first African-American player in Major League Baseball's American League.

Mr. Doby, who died in 2003, began playing for the Cleveland Indians in the summer of 1947, shortly after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in the National League. He won a World Series championship with the team in 1948.

"Larry Doby joined the Major Leagues shortly after the great Jackie Robinson and faced the same struggles and barriers without the same recognition. Every time I walk through Progressive Field, I am reminded of his contribution to Cleveland and America's favorite pastime," U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci (R-Alliance) said. "I am pleased that my colleagues voted to award Larry Doby the Congressional Gold Medal and further recognizing his incredible life and career."

Rep. Ryan said the seven-time all-star has an important legacy on and off the field.

"He stood above the racism, segregation, and harassment on and off the field by carrying himself with dignity and grace. Doby not only was an exceptional baseball player, but an extraordinary American by serving in the United States Navy during World War II," he said. "His legacy serves as an inspiration to baseball players and communities of colors all across the United States."

**Veterans:** Four pieces of legislation sponsored by U.S. Rep. Brad Wenstrup (R-Cincinnati) have been advanced by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

The resolutions or provisions of resolutions pushed by the Congressman would:

- Cap flight school fees paid for through the GI Bill to prevent institutions from overcharging the government.
- Create the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.
- Allow spouses of deceased military service members to cancel residential leases without additional fees.
- Use private sector productivity tools to evaluate the Veterans Health Administration.

"I am proud to see these important bills advance toward consideration by the full House of Representatives," Rep. Wenstrup said. "These provisions increase services available to veterans, effectively use VA resources, and help unburden gold star widows. I remain committed to serving our veterans and their families."

In other recent news, the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs supported the nomination of Robert Wilkie for secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The panel, which includes Sen. Brown, moved the nomination forward by voice vote.

"Mr. Wilkie earned the support of veterans and gave me his word that he will oppose efforts to privatize VA," Sen. Brown said. "I look forward to working with Mr. Wilkie to strengthen and improve VA to provide the best possible care and benefits to Ohio veterans."

Sen. Brown also pushed for \$10 million in funding for a Department of Defense program to research alternatives to opioids for the treatment of chronic pain in the Senate's Defense Appropriations Bill.

The measure cleared the Senate Appropriations Committee earlier this month and now awaits approval by the full chamber.

"When it's easier for Americans to get their hands on opioids than it is for them to access non-addictive alternatives and treatments, we have a serious problem," Sen. Brown said. "Opioid addiction is a chronic disease and even our brave service members are not immune - so we need to develop and ensure that there are a variety of non-addictive methods available so we can help prevent addiction before it takes hold."

### **Governor's Appointments**

**State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children:** Erin B. Lunday, MA of Beavercreek (Greene Co.) for a term beginning July 13 and continuing at the pleasure of the Governor.

**Ohio Real Estate Commission:** Peter M. McLinden, JD of Lebanon (Warren Co.) for a term beginning July 13 and ending June 30, 2019.

**Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission:** William R. Knapke of Fort Recovery (Mercer Co.) was reappointed, and Kathryn "Kate" Bartter of Columbus (Franklin Co.) and Bethany Gibson, DVM of Ashville (Pickaway Co.) were appointed for terms beginning July 13 and ending June 30, 2022.

**Materials Management Advisory Council:** Paul F. Wise of Westerville (Delaware Co.), Kelly Bensman, MS of Toledo (Lucas Co.), and Francis J. Szollosi, MPP, MS were reappointed for terms beginning July 13 and ending July 1, 2021.

**New Americans Advisory Committee:** Helen S. Qin of Cleveland (Cuyahoga Co.) for a term beginning July 13 and ending May 14, 2019.

### **Supplemental Event Planner**

#### **Monday, July 16**

---

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Columbus officials to make funding announcement, Columbus Foundation, 1234 East Broad St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m.

## **Tuesday, July 17**

---

Gov. John Kasich, administration officials to dedicate new state park, Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium, 2450 Fred Taylor Dr., Columbus, 9:30 a.m., (A follow-up event will be held 2 p.m. at Miners' Memorial, 4470 East State Route 78, McConnelsville)

## **Wednesday, July 18**

---

Ohio Chamber of Commerce Research Foundation to release economic report, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 10 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus, Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com)

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2018, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



## Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, July 14-Monday, July 16

### Legislative Committees

Monday, July 16

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (Committee Record) (Chr. Uecker, J., 644-6030), Senate Finance Hearing Rm., 1:30 p.m.

### Agency Calendar

No agency meetings scheduled.

### Event Planner

Monday, July 16

Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) golf outing fundraiser, Mohawk Golf Course, 4399 OH-231, Tiffin, 8:30 a.m., (8:30 am registration; 10 am shotgun)

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Columbus officials to make funding announcement, Columbus Foundation, 1234 East Broad St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com)

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

© 2018, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



## Event Planner

**Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) golf outing fundraiser**, Mohawk Golf Course, 4399 OH-231, Tiffin, 8:30 a.m., (8:30 am registration; 10 am shotgun)

**U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Columbus officials to make funding announcement**, Columbus Foundation, 1234 East Broad St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m.

### Tuesday, July 17

**Gov. John Kasich, administration officials to dedicate new state park**, Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium, 2450 Fred Taylor Dr., Columbus, 9:30 a.m., (A follow-up event will be held 2 p.m. at Miners' Memorial, 4470 East State Route 78, McConnelsville)

**Environment Ohio news conference on wind and solar industry**, Nelson Park, 430 N. Nelson Rd., Columbus, 10 a.m.

**Ohio Library Council news conference on partnership with LinkedIn**, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 10 a.m.

**Republican Senate Campaign Committee MLB All-Star Game fundraiser**, Dock 79, 79 Potomac Ave SE, Washington DC, 5 p.m., (Walk Off: \$5,000 | Grand Slam: \$2,500 | Home Run: \$1,000 to RSCC)

### Wednesday, July 18

**Ohio Chamber of Commerce Research Foundation to release economic report**, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 10 a.m.

### Thursday, July 19

**ALEC Annual Meeting**, Denver

**Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) manicure fundraiser**, W Nail Bar, 946 N. High Street, Columbus, 4 p.m., (PAC: \$500 | Individual: \$250 | Young Professional: \$50 to Citizens for Stephanie Kunze. RSVP is required to ensure appointment.)

**Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) Batter Up fundraiser**, Progressive Field, 2401 Ontario Street, Cleveland, 4 p.m., (4:00pm Warm Up & Batting | 5:30pm Reception. Grand Slam: \$5,000 | Home Run: \$2,500 | Single: \$1,000 | Spectator: \$150 to Friends of Matt Dolan)



## **Friday, July 20**

**ALEC Annual Meeting, Denver**

Rep. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville) golf outing fundraiser, Mallard Creek Golf Club, 34500 Royalton Road (SR 82), Columbia Station, 10 a.m., (10:00 am Shotgun start; Tournament: \$2,000, Eagle: \$1,000; Foursome: \$600, Birdie:\$5000, Person: \$150 to Friends of Tom Patton)

## **Saturday, July 21**

**ALEC Annual Meeting, Denver**

## **Sunday, July 22**

**YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

## **Monday, July 23**

**YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Hidden Creek Golf Club, 6245 Sugar Creek Road, Lima, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration | 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$1,000 | Foursome: \$400 | Tee or Green Sponsor: \$200 | Individual Golfer: \$100 to Huffman for Ohio)

## **Tuesday, July 24**

**YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Gresso's, 961 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Gold: \$2,000; Silver: \$1,000; Bronze: \$500 to Seitz for Ohio)

Reggie Stoltzfus (R-Candidate for Ohio House District 50) fundraiser, The Quarry Golf Club, 5650 Quarry Lake Drive, Canton, 5:30 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500, Host: \$1,000, Sponsor: \$500, Patron: \$250, Individuals:\$100, Couples: \$150 to Friends of Stoltzfus)

## **Wednesday, July 25**

**YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) golf outing fundraiser, Eagle Rock Golf Club, 211 Carpenter Road, Defiance, 11 a.m., (11:00am Registration and Lunch | 12:00pm Shotgun Start | 5:30pm Cocktail Hour | 6:00pm Dinner with State Rep. Craig

Riedel. Event Sponsor: \$2,500 | Tee Sponsor: \$1,000 | Green Sponsor: \$500 | Foursome: \$400 | Dinner Sponsor: \$250 | Individual Golfer: \$100 to Citizens for McColley)

## **Thursday, July 26**

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus  
Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) golf outing fundraiser, Eagle Rock Golf Club, 211 Carpenter Rd., Defiance, 9:30 a.m., (9:30 Shotgun Start. Event:\$2,500, Tee:\$1,000, Green:\$500, Foursome:\$400, Golfer: \$100 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel)  
Rep. Bill Blessing (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Via Vite, 520 Vine St., Cincinnati, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000, Host: \$500, Guest: \$250 to Citizens for Blessing)

## **Friday, July 27**

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

## **Monday, July 30**

NCSL Legislative Summit, Los Angeles

## **Tuesday, July 31**

NCSL Legislative Summit, Los Angeles  
Deadline to file semi-annual campaign finance reports

## **Wednesday, August 1**

Rep. Riordan McClain (R-Upper Sandusky) golf outing fundraisers  
NCSL Legislative Summit, Los Angeles

## **Thursday, August 2**

NCSL Legislative Summit, Los Angeles  
Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) Lake Erie fundraiser, Dock's Beach House, 252 W. Lakeshore Drive, Port Clinton, 4 p.m., (Sponsor: \$2,500 | Host: \$1,000 | Guest: \$500 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)

## **Friday, August 3**

Deadline for statewide candidates to file July campaign finance reports  
Speaker Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) golf outing fundraiser, Cliffside Golf, 100 Cliffside Drive, Gallipolis, 9 a.m., (Coffee/Registration: 9:00am; Shotgun Start: 10:00am; Event Chair: \$12,707.79; Event host: \$5,000; Event sponsor: \$2,500; Tee Sponsor: \$1,000; Foursome: \$500; Individual Golfer: \$150; Reception only: \$75 to Friends of Ryan Smith)  
Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, FOP Hall, 2249 Payne Ave., Cleveland, 5 p.m., (\$200 (table); \$20 (friend) to Friends of Sandra Williams)

## **Monday, August 6**

Rep. Brigid Kelly (D-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Urban Stead Cheese, 3036 Woodburn Ave., Cincinnati, 5:30 p.m., (Host: \$500; Champion: \$250; Friend: \$100; Young Dem: \$50 to Friends of Brigid Kelly)

## **Tuesday, August 7**

Special election for 12th Congressional District seat  
Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) fundraiser, Condado, 132 S. High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Host: \$1,000, Sponsor: \$500, Patron: \$350 to Lanese for Ohio)

## **Wednesday, August 8**

Rep. Riordan McClain (R-Upper Sandusky) golf outing fundraiser, Bucyrus Golf Club, 1330 E. Mansfield St., Bucyrus, 12:30 p.m., (12:30 pm Registration, 1:00 pm Shotgun Start, 5:00 pm Cocktail Hour, 5:30 Reception; Event: \$2,500, Tee: \$1,000, Green: \$500, Foursome: \$400, Golfer: \$100; Reception Only: Host: \$250, Individuals: \$50 to McClain for Ohio)

## **Wednesday, August 15**

Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) golf outing fundraiser, Stone Ridge Golf Club, 1552 Muirfield Dr., Bowling Green, 9 a.m., (9:00 am Registration, 10:00 am Shotgun Start; Event: \$2,000, Food and Beverage: \$1,000, Tee: \$750, Foursome: \$500; Individual: \$125, Green: \$100 Reception only: \$30 to Citizens for Gavarone. Reception held following the golf outing at Mr. Spots, 206 N. Main St., Bowling Green.)

## **Thursday, August 16**

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) golf outing fundraiser, London Country Club, 1199 Spring Valley Rd., London, 9 a.m., (9 am registration, 10 am shotgun. Hackett for Ohio)

## **Friday, August 17**

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) Fly Fishing fundraiser

## **Monday, August 20**

Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) golf outing fundraiser, Pinnacle Golf Club, 1500 Pinnacle Golf Club Dr., Grove City, 10 a.m., (10:00 am Registration, 11:00 am Shotgun start, Dinner to follow; Event: \$1,500, Food and Beverage: \$700, Golfer: \$150; Hole: \$100 to Lanese for Ohio)

## **Thursday, August 23**

Hamilton County GOP State Legislative golf outing fundraiser

## **Monday, August 27**

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) golf outing fundraiser, Denison Golf Club, 555 Newark Granville Rd., Granville, 9 a.m., (9:00 am Registration, 10:00 am Shotgun Start. Event: \$2500; Food and Beverage: \$1000; Tee: \$750; Foursome: \$500; Golfer: \$125; Green: \$100 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)

## **Saturday, September 1**

Lobbyists/Employers can begin filing May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports

## **Thursday, September 6**

Deadline for statewide candidates to file August campaign finance reports  
Rep. Rick Carfagna (R-Westerville) golf outing fundraiser

## **Friday, September 14**

Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) golf outing fundraiser, Springdale Golf Course, 5871 Canterbury Road, North Olmstead, 9 a.m., (9:00 am Shotgun Start, Lunch at the Turn, Dinner to follow; Dinner Sponsor: \$1,500, Lunch Sponsor: \$1,000, Drink Sponsor: \$750, Hole Sponsor: \$100; Foursome: \$500, Single Golfer: \$125, Dinner only: \$60 to Friends of Dave Greenspan)

## **Thursday, September 27**

Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) shotgun fundraiser

## **Friday, September 28**

Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) golf outing fundraiser  
Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) Day at the Races fundraiser

## **Monday, October 1**

JLEC Deadline for filing May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Report

## **Wednesday, October 3**

Deadline for statewide candidates to file September campaign finance reports

## **Thursday, October 25**

Deadline to file pre-general campaign finance reports

## **Tuesday, November 6**

General election day

## **Thursday, November 8**

2018 Impact Ohio Post Election Conference, Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St., Columbus

## **Saturday, December 1**

**Lobbyists can begin renewing Legislative, Executive and Retirement System registrations for 2019**

## **Friday, December 14**

**Deadline to file post-general campaign finance reports**

## **Monday, December 31**

**All 2018 Legislative, Executive and Retirement System lobbying registrations expire in OLAC**

## **Thursday, January 31**

**Deadline to 2018 annual campaign finance reports**

**Deadline to 2018 annual campaign finance reports**

17 S. High St., Suite 630  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com)

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

© 2018, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.

**From:** Paretti, Dominic  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2018 10:15 AM  
**To:** House\_All  
**Subject:** FW: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

**\*\*REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS MARCH 9, 2018 at 4PM**

Dominic Paretti

Legislative Aide to Representative Boyd  
Ohio House District 09  
614-644-5079

**From:** Paretti, Dominic  
**Sent:** Monday, February 05, 2018 5:01 PM  
**To:** House\_All <House\_All@ohiohouse.gov>  
**Subject:** Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All House Members  
**FROM:** Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs  
**DATE:** February 5, 2018  
**RE:** Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

---

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of

family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.


Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at [Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov](mailto:Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov) and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at [Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov](mailto:Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov). **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janine Boyd".

**Janine Boyd**  
**State Representative, Ohio House District 09**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kristin Boggs".

**Kristin Boggs**  
**State Representative, Ohio House District 18**

**From:** Westlake, Libby  
**Sent:** Monday, February 26, 2018 8:54 AM  
**To:** Westlake, Libby  
**Subject:** E-Clips for 2/26/2018

## HOUSE E-CLIPS

2/26/2018



### **FUTURE UNCERTAIN AS OHIO HIGHER EDUCATION BOARD SITS IDLE**

The future of Ohio's once-powerful higher education advisory board remains uncertain as lawmakers move to change the way the state oversees education.

### **OHIO MOVES TO ADD WRIGHT FLYER TO STATE SEAL AMID DISPUTE**

Ohio is staking another public claim to the Wright brothers' legacy amid a dispute with Connecticut over an aviator that state says flew first.

### **GOP GOVERNOR TAPS ADVISERS FOR GUN POLICY TALKS**

Ohio Gov. John Kasich says he has convened a diverse group of advisers on gun policy to help him come up with a consensus policy proposal that he can bring forward in the coming days.



### **MEDICAL MARIJUANA MAY ARRIVE LATE IN OHIO**

From litigation to audits to legislation, the attempted fixes are piling up for an Ohio medical marijuana program that has been beset by problems.

### **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR OHIO GOVERNOR HOPE TO WIN BACK TRUMP VOTERS**

Getting Ohio Democrats who voted for President Donald Trump back into the fold was a theme Sunday as Democratic candidates for governor appeared before the public in Marysville.

### **KASICH FAVORS ARMING TEACHERS, AGAINST 'STAND YOUR GROUND'**

Ohio Gov. John Kasich said he is hoping that a group he's quietly convened to find solutions to gun violence in the state will be able to deliver something by the end of next week to the General Assembly.

### **FRUSTRATED ACTIVIST BASHES KASICH, EYES RECREATIONAL WEED**

An architect of Ohio's medical marijuana law Friday accused Gov. John Kasich of intentionally torpedoing the state's program, which is supposed to start in September.

### **UNION MONEY NOW FUELS GOP LEGISLATIVE CAMPAIGNS IN OHIO**

Ohio has increasingly become an island among states that have passed a right-to-work law — an initiative strongly opposed by labor unions.

### **NEARLY NEW LINEUP AT DEMOCRATS' NEXT OHIO GOVERNOR DEBATE IN TOLEDO**

When four Democratic candidates for Ohio governor gathered for a debate in Columbus in October, they spent their time discussing Ohio's opioid crisis, the scandal surrounding online charter school ECOT, and the financial cost to local communities of state tax breaks for businesses.

### **KASICH ASSAILS DEMOCRATS FOR LACKING AGENDA**

Launching a spirited attack against the Democratic Party, Ohio Gov. John Kasich charged he has "no clue" what Democrats stand for and complained they have "no agenda."

### **CAPITOL INSIDER: KASICH CHANGES HIS TUNE ON 'ASSAULT WEAPONS' VOTE**

Ohio Gov. John Kasich's evolution on gun issues apparently continues.

### **EDITORIAL: DOING NOTHING IS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE**

Gun-rights advocates in the Ohio House of Representatives had every reason to expect House Bill 228 to pass easily, further dismantling the state's already-flimsy regulation of deadly weapons.

**Dayton Daily News**  
www.daytondailynews.com

### **ANTHEM BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD ER POLICY CRITICIZED BY OHIO**

#### **LAWMAKERS**

Several Democratic state lawmakers want to penalize Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield for a new policy that does not cover some emergency room visits deemed by the insurer not to be emergencies.

## **THE PLAIN DEALER**

### **KASICH, OTHER GOVERNORS RESTATE NATIONAL NEED TO DEAL WITH HEALTH CARE COSTS AND QUALITY**

Ohio Gov. John Kasich and his counterparts from Colorado and Alaska came to the nation's capital Friday to remind policy makers, businesses and the public: There's still much work to do on health care.

### **'YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU GET PUNCHED, AT LEAST IT ONLY HURTS FOR A MINUTE' OHIO MATTERS: EPISODE 6 - JOE SCHIAVONI**

State Sen. Joe Schiavoni acknowledges the Democratic gubernatorial primary has been a tough fight so far.

### **REPUBLICAN OHIO GOVERNOR CANDIDATES SUPPORT ARMING TEACHERS TO HELP PREVENT SCHOOL SHOOTINGS**

Both Republican candidates for Ohio governor say they support arming teachers as part of an approach to prevent further school shootings.

### **STATE EMPLOYEES WITH CLAIMS PROCESSED BY ANTHEM NOT AFFECTED BY NEW ER RULE**

State employees are not affected by a new Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield rule that leaves some policyholders with emergency-room bills when the company determines they didn't need emergency care.

### **OHIO RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA BALLOT MEASURE MIGHT NOT HAPPEN IN 2018, BACKER SAYS**

Ohioans hoping to vote to legalize recreational marijuana this year will likely have to wait a little longer, perhaps as long as two years.

### **FACT CHECK: OHIO DEMOCRATS TAKE FRANK LAROSE'S REMARKS OUT OF CONTEXT**

The Ohio Democratic Party on Friday circulated a 13-second audio recording of Republican Frank LaRose, a candidate for secretary of state, claiming that he was bragging about a Republican plan to gerrymander states across the country, including Ohio in 2011.

### **MARY TAYLOR'S CHIEF OF STAFF HAS NEW JOB WITH OHIO'S MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM**

A longtime Kasich administration staffer has a new job advising Ohio's nascent medical marijuana program, but few details were available Friday about what he will do in the new role.

### **ROLL OF SHAME OF OHIO LAWMAKERS WHO OVERRODE GOP GOV. TAFT'S 2006 VETO, ENDING CITIES' BANS ON MASSACRE-CAPABLE WEAPONS: THOMAS SUDDER**

Some Ohioans sincerely believe the Second Amendment trumps any attempt to regulate massacre-capable guns.

### **FIRSTENERGY CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO POCKET CORPORATE-TAX-CUT WINDFALL AND SHORT CUSTOMERS: EDITORIAL**

The last time U.S. corporate tax rates were slashed, during the Reagan administration, some state utility regulators were slow off the mark in making sure investor-owned utilities didn't just pocket the profits without adjusting consumer bills, The New York Times reports.

# **THE ENQUIRER**

**THE NRA HAS A LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THESE OHIO REPUBLICANS  
– AND DEMOCRATS.**

The National Rifle Association has long supported Republicans around the country, and vice versa.

**THE BLADE**  
One of America's Great Newspapers

**LITIGATION PROCEEDS OVER MEDICAL MARIJUANA LICENSING**

A lawsuit that could endanger the timeline for Ohio's rollout of its fledgling medical marijuana program will forge ahead despite proposed legislation to give the state a chance to correct licensing flaws.